

Love & Lies



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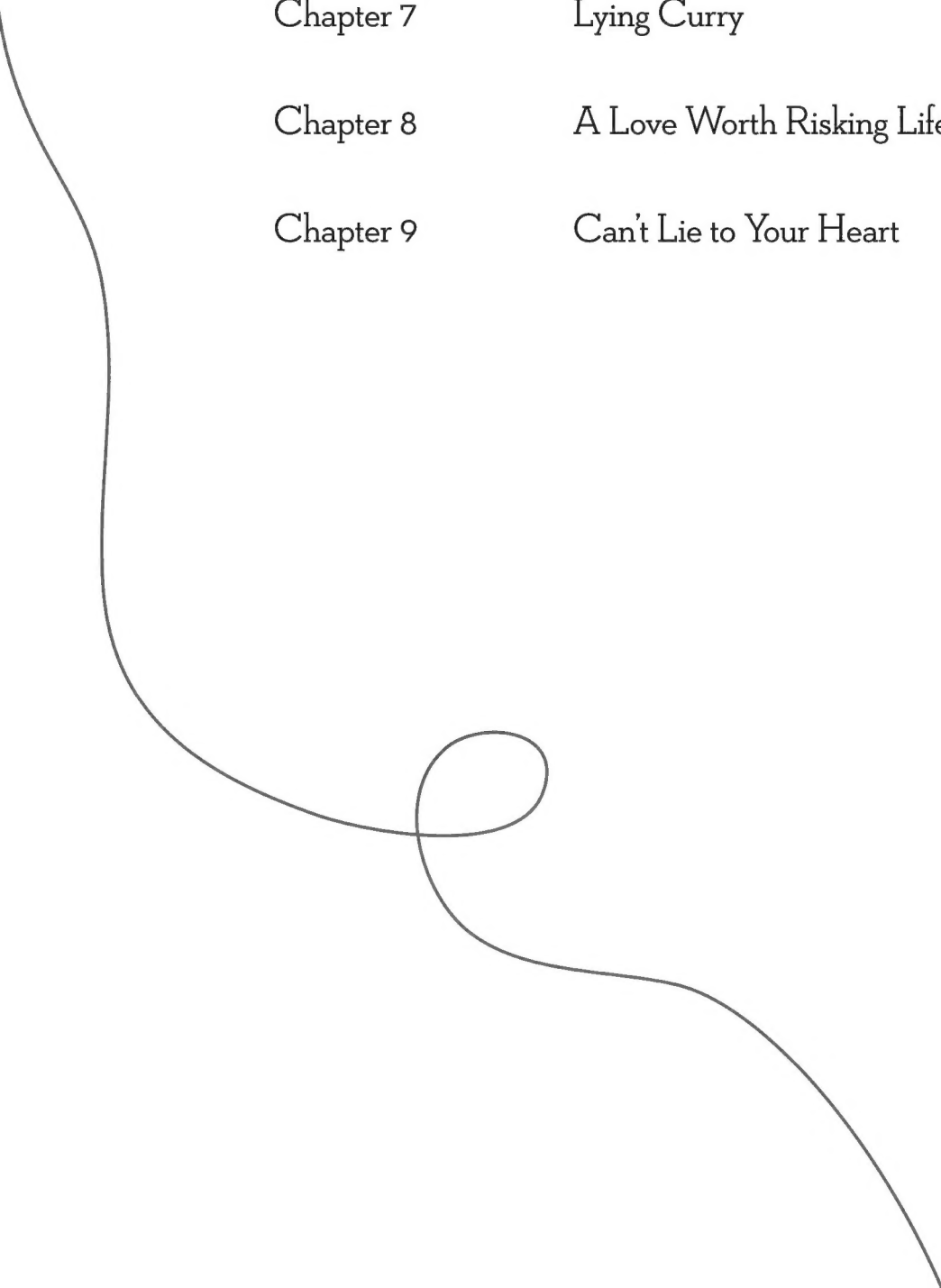
MUSAWO

Love & Lies ②

LOVE and LIES by MUSAWO

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NISAKA?

...

HM? WHAT?

SO DID TAKEDA SHOW YOU HIS PARTNER, TOO, NISAKA?

HUHP? IS HE MAD?

NO, I JUST HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN NEAR THE STATION.

ANYWAY, DO YOU LIVE NEARBY, NEJI?

OH, I SEE.

...

O-OH YEAH! WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY AGAIN, NISAKA?





BUT MAN,
BEFORE WE
STARTED
HIGH SCHOOL,
I NEVER WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
WE'D BE
WALKING
HOME
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS!

NEJI...
UM...



MAYBE
...



HUH?
THAT'S
MEAN!

I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
AT FIRST.

OH,
THAT'S
GOOD.

WELL...
YOU
WERE
PRETTY
ANNOYING.



WE HAD
THE SAME
CRAM
SCHOOL,
BUT OUR
REGULAR
SCHOOLS
WERE
DIFFER-
ENT...
I
KINDA
FELT
LIKE I
WAS A
HANGER-
ON WITH
YOU...

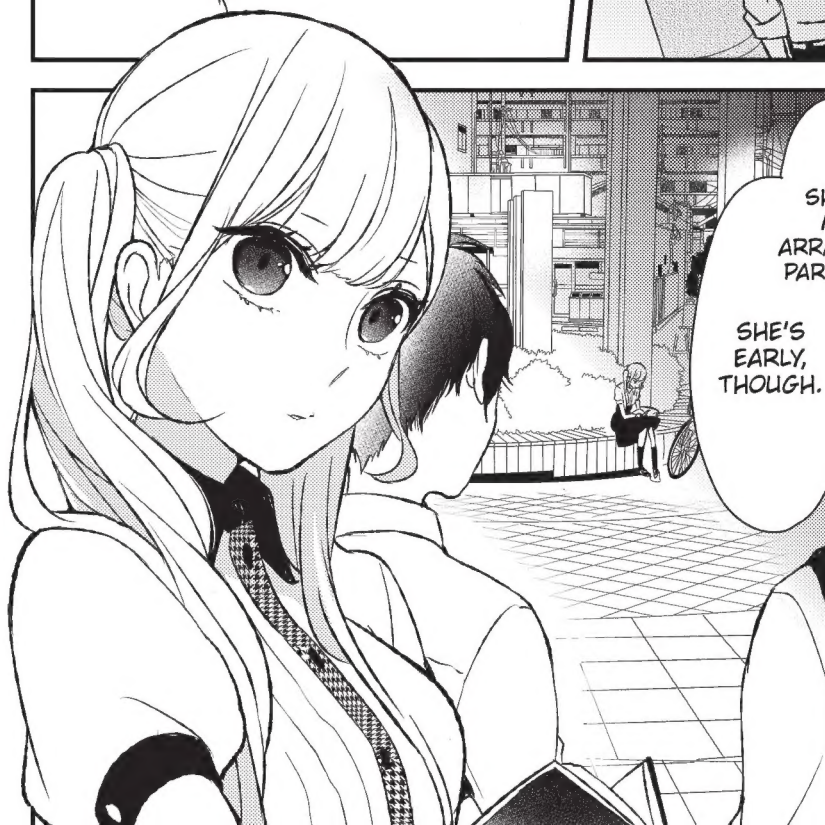
HUH?



...I WAS
REALLY
HAPPY.

MAYBE YOU
WEREN'T
INTERESTED
AT ALL IN
A PLAIN GUY
LIKE ME,
BUT...

AFTER
THE
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY,
WHEN I
FOUND OUT
WE WERE IN
THE SAME
CLASS...





I GOT
ON AN
EARLIER
TRAIN,
AND
THEN...



I
STILL
HAVE 15
MINUTES
...

YOU'RE
EARLY.

YUKARI!
YOU'RE
LATE!



LILINA?

OH!
THIS IS
NISAKA.
HE'S A...



...

うん
うん



...



"TAMED"
?

HEY...
SHE'S
NOT A
DOG!

HUH.

YOU'VE
TAMED
HER MORE
THAN
YOU LET
ON.



NISAKA'S
MY FRIEND!



DON'T
SAY
THAT!



SCREECH

WHAT
A SNAP
JUDG-
MENT...

ANYONE
WHO ASKS
THAT WHEN
FIRST
MEETING
SOMEONE
IS A
PERVERT!



HE'S
IMPORTANT
TO ME!



...

Love & Lies

YUKARI ISN'T
QUITE AS
GOOD-LOOKING,
BUT YOU
TWO SUIT
EACH OTHER!

THE
GOVERNMENT
SURE DOES
MAKE
AMAZING
MATCHES!

はっ

BAAAAAAM

ん





JEEZ...I KNEW
THEY WOULD
START TALKING
ABOUT THIS!

WHEN WILL
THIS BE OVER??
DAMN IT...



AGH!
JEEZ!
IT'S NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS!

WE
DID IT
EARLY,
YOU
KNOW!

KISSING
ISN'T THAT
BIG OF
A DEAL,
ANYWAY...

IT'S
YOUR
FIRST
TIME,
SO YOU
SHOULD
PRACTICE!



OH!
HONEY,
THIS
TEMPURA!

IS IT
SMACK-
EREL?

IT'S
SO
GOOD!



HEY,
HEY,
HEY!
THE
COUPLE
HAS
ALREADY
FINISHED
EATING!

AND
YOU'RE
STILL
EATING?
YOU'RE
SURE
FO-
KISSED
ON THOSE
SPRING
ROLLS!



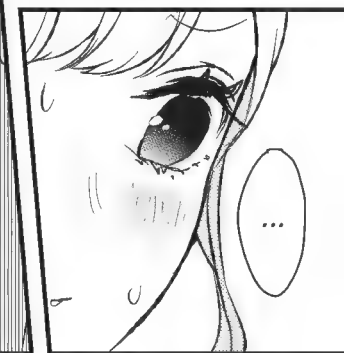
UM...



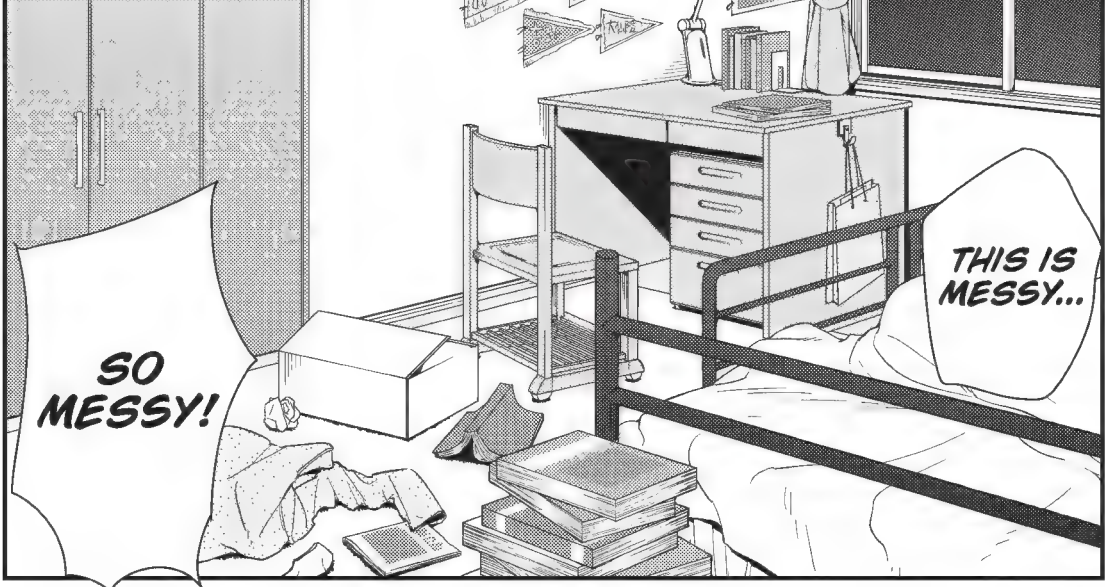
IT'S
NOTHING
...

WHAT'S
WRONG,
LILINA?















THE TRUTH IS...

I BOUGHT THIS ONE BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE TAKASAKI-SAN A LITTLE IN THE BACKGROUND!



I FELT
LIKE I
WAS
FLOATING
ON AIR
THAT DAY!

TAKASAKI-SAN
SMILED AT ME...

AND I
WAS HAPPY,
WHATEVER
I DID...

I THINK IT
WAS THE DAY
AFTER THAT.

I THINK...
IT WASN'T
THAT DAY.

THINGS
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
THE SAME
AS USUAL,
BUT...

THE NEXT DAY,
WHEN I WENT
TO CLASS...

I'M
SURE
THAT
WAS
THE
MOMENT
...

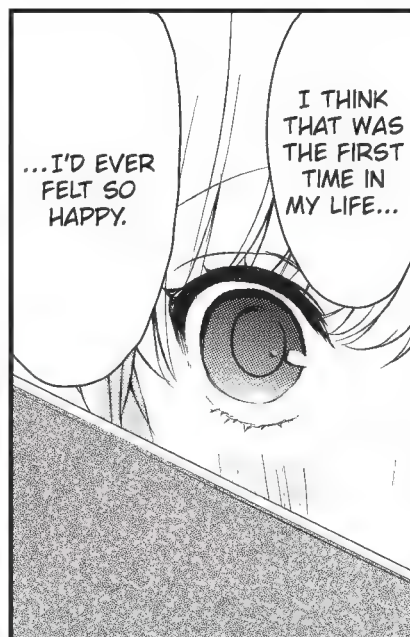
... TAKASAKI-
SAN
BECAME
SPECIAL
TO ME.

AND EVERYTHING
LOOKED DIFFERENT
TO ME...

... THAN IT
HAD THE
DAY BEFORE.

IT WAS LIKE
ONLY TAKASAKI-SAN
WAS SHINING.

JUST LOOKING
AT HER GOT
ME EXCITED...





HUH?
ME?

JUST KINDA
THINKING
OF
SOMEONE
AND
FEELING
EXCITED...

EVEN
IF YOU
HAVEN'T
FALLEN
IN LOVE
YET...

HAVEN'T
YOU EVER
FELT LIKE
THAT?



YOU
HAVE?

HUH?



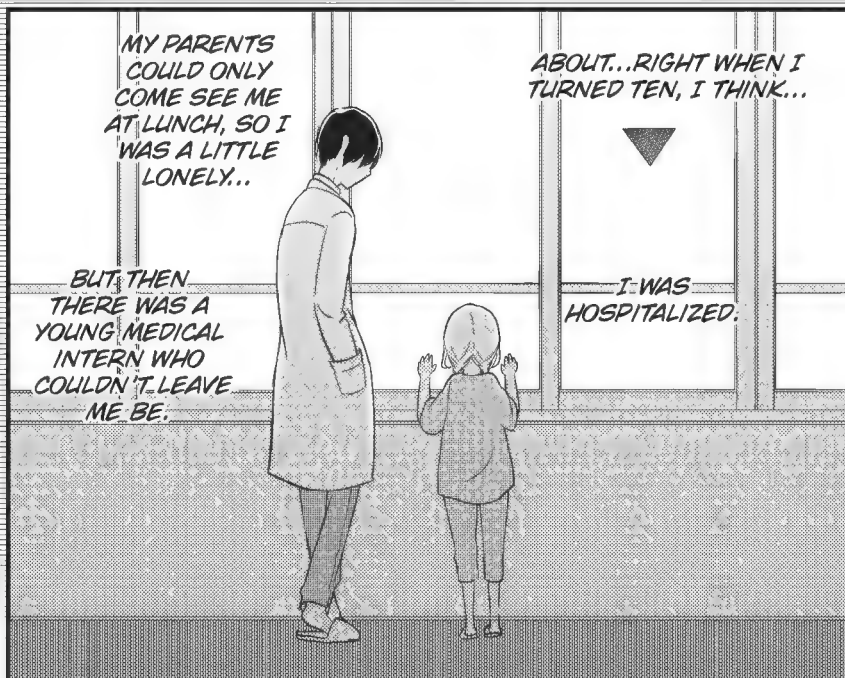
OH!

NOW
THAT I
THINK
OF
IT...



A-A
MEDICAL
INTERN?!

HE
TOOK
ME
FOR A
WALK.



MY PARENTS
COULD ONLY
COME SEE ME
AT LUNCH, SO I
WAS A LITTLE
LONELY...

ABOUT...RIGHT WHEN I
TURNED TEN, I THINK...

BUT THEN
THERE WAS A
YOUNG MEDICAL
INTERN WHO
COULDN'T LEAVE
ME BE.

I WAS
HOSPITALIZED.

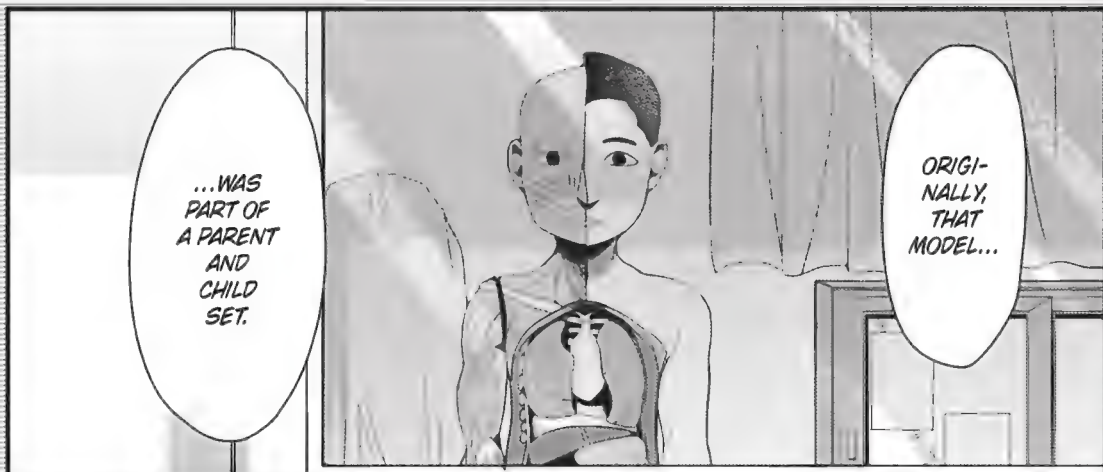


DO YOU
SEE THAT
CHILD
ANATOMY
DOLL
OVER
THERE?

THE ONE
THAT'S
JUST
ABOUT
YOUR
HEIGHT.



LI-
LILINA-
CHAN.



...WAS
PART OF
A PARENT
AND
CHILD
SET.

ORIGI-
NALLY,
THAT
MODEL...



NO
WAY!

AND
THAT
WHOEVER
SEES HIM
CRY WILL
GET KIDNEY
STONES
WITHIN
THE YEAR
...

SO THEY
SAY THAT
HE'S SO
LONELY
HE CRIES
NIGHT
AFTER
NIGHT.

BUT
WHEN THEY
OPENED THE
PEDIATRIC
FACILITY
HERE, ONLY
THE CHILD
MODEL WAS
MOVED
OVER...



...ME!

JUST
LIKE...



I
THINK
THAT
WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
SCARY
STORY.

NO...I
KINDA
DOUBT
IT...

NOW
THAT I
THINK
ABOUT IT,
MAYBE
THAT
WAS
LOVE!

EVER
SINCE
THEN,
WHENEVER
I PASSED
THAT
MODEL...
I FELT
KIND
OF
EXCITED...



EVEN
IF HE
WAS
SHAPED
LIKE A
HUMAN.
YOU
COULD
SEE
ALL OF
HIS
INSIDES!

THAT'S A
NO-GO.

PLUS,
HE WAS
JUST A
PLASTIC
MODEL!



BUT...

I
DON'T
THINK I
EVER
WANTED
TO
KISS
HIM.

HEH...
THAT'S
GOOD.





HAVE WE
MADE, UH,
SMACKEREL?

ER...
DO YOU
MEAN
LIKE...

UM...



O-OH, MAN...

WHAT DO I
SAY...?

I THINK
HIDING IT WOULD
BE A BAD IDEA...



SO?
DID YOU
DO IT?

OR
NOT?

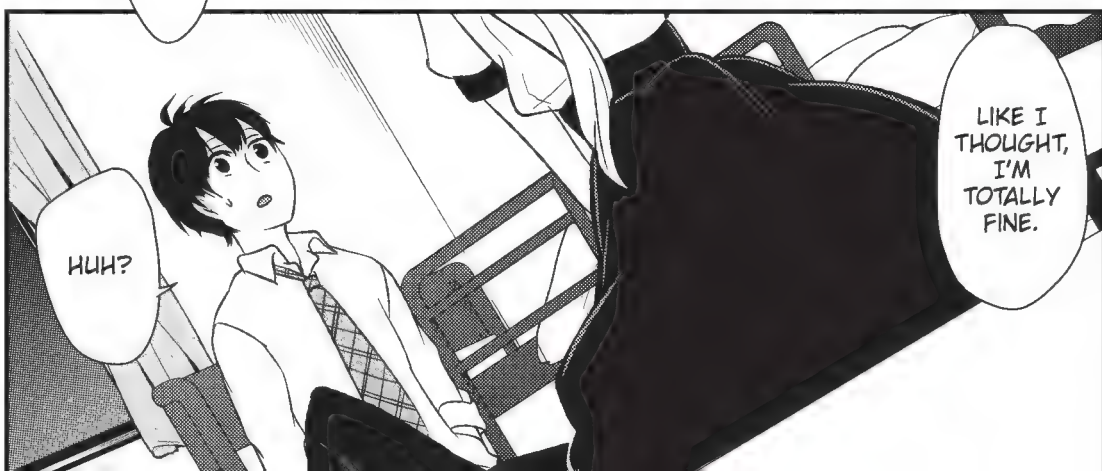
OF
COURSE
NOT!
DON'T BE
STUPID!

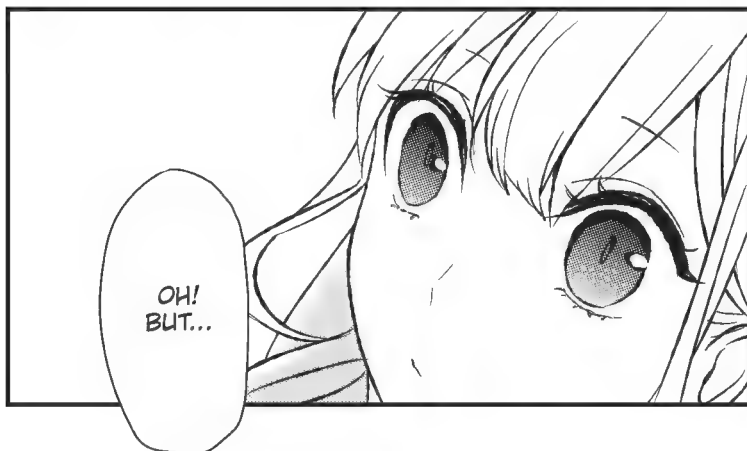


WE
DID.

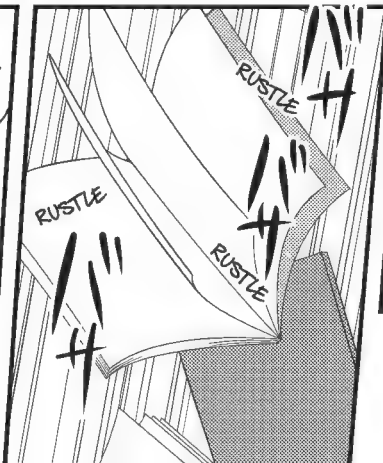
W...

WE
DID...

















*NOTE: IN EAST ASIAN CULTURES, LOVERS ARE SOMETIMES SAID TO BE CONNECTED BY A RED THREAD, WHICH DESTINES THEM TO MEET.





DID YOU KNOW?

THEY SAY THAT YOUR GENES...
...DETERMINE 50% OF YOUR PERSONALITY.
THE OTHER 50% IS DETERMINED BY YOUR ENVIRONMENT.



THERE'S THE GENETIC INFORMATION WE TAKE WHEN YOU'RE BORN, OF COURSE...
AND FROM YOUR PARENTS WE KNOW YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING AND COMPATIBILITY...



FROM YOUR HEALTH CHECKUPS IN THE SPRING...
...TO YOUR ETHICS CLASSES IN SECOND SEMESTER.

THAT'S RIGHT, OVER AND OVER.



FROM THE TIME YOU STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UNTIL YOU WERE 15 YEARS OLD...
...YOU TOOK MANY SURVEYS AND HAD VARIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVIEWS.



ALL OF THAT INFORMATION TOGETHER GIVES RISE TO THE RESULTS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT NOTICE.



FROM THAT GROUPING, WE TAKE ACCOUNT FOR MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, STANDARD OF LIVING, IDEOLOGY, ETC...

...AND NARROW IT DOWN TO SET COUPLES.

...AND COMPARE IT WITH THE TENDENCIES OF CHANGE FOUND IN YOUR EXAM RESPONSES...

WE TAKE THE PERSONALITY WE'VE CALCULATED BASED ON YOUR GENETICS...

SORT YOU BY SEX AND THE YEAR YOU WERE BORN...

...AND CLASSIFY YOU ACCORDING TO A CHART WITH OVER 90% ACCURACY.



HUMANS ARE A SOCIAL ANIMAL, AFTER ALL.

...TO PEOPLE YOU'VE KNOWN SINCE BEFORE YOU REACHED ADULTHOOD. IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN CATS AND DOGS.

IT'S MUCH EASIER TO BE CLOSE ...

THE KEY IS TO FIND SOMEONE BEFORE YOU TURN 16, WHEN YOUR PERSONALITY IS FINISHED FORMING.



THOSE
OLD
FASHIONED
ARRANGE-
MENTS...

...MADE
ON
AMATEUR
SUPPOSITIONS
ONLY EVER
SORT OF
WORKED
OUT.

IT WAS SAID
THAT THESE
SCIENTIFICALLY-
BACKED...

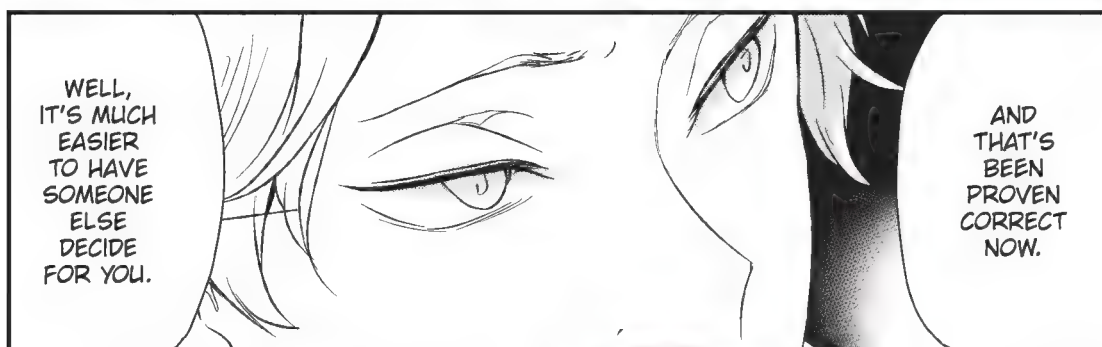
...
GOVERNMENT
ARRANGED
MARRIAGES
WOULD
HAVE AN
EXTREMELY
LOW CHANCE
OF
FAILURE...



EVEN
A FEW
DECADES
AGO...

...WE HAD
CULTURAL
RELICS LIKE
"MATCH-
MAKERS"
AND
"MARRIAGE
MEETINGS."

BUT
COMPARED
WITH THE
CURRENT
YUKARI
SYSTEM,
THOSE
WERE
CHILD'S
PLAY.



WELL,
IT'S MUCH
EASIER
TO HAVE
SOMEONE
ELSE
DECIDE
FOR YOU.

AND
THAT'S
BEEN
PROVEN
CORRECT
NOW.



OH!
AND BY
THE
WAY!

GENES,
PERSONALITY
TESTS,
APPEARANCE
...
SO
THERE'S
SOMETHING
SOLID
BEHIND
YOUR
CHOICES.



BUT EVEN IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT WITH HER ONCE, WHAT ABOUT WANTING TO MARRY HER?

WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE PRETTY, YOU THINK "I'D LIKE TO DATE HER!"
OR YOU THINK "NICE!" WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE WITH A BIG CHEST, DON'T YOU?



APPEARANCE HAS VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE DECISION.

HUH?



THAT ONLY WORKS IN THE APE WORLD.

BOOBS!
BUTT!
THIGHS!
SHE COULD HAVE NICE BABIES!
OKAY, LET'S COPULATE!

THAT'S JUST MONKEY-THINKING.



...
ACTUALLY LEADS TO FAILURE.

ACTUALLY, AFTER ANALYZING THE DATA FOR MANY YEARS...

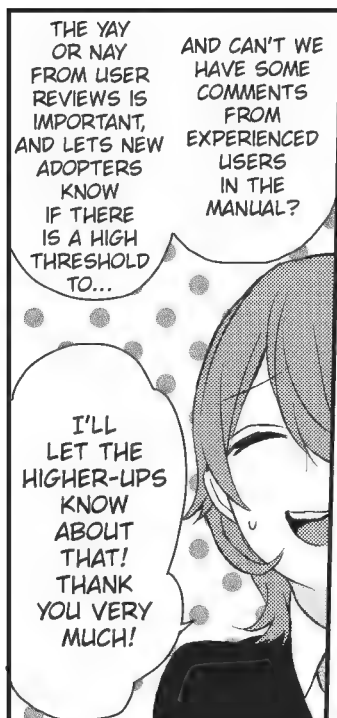
...WE'VE FOUND OUT THAT FOCUSING ON LOOKS...



IN OTHER WORDS...











"TAKA-
SAKI"...
DOES
THAT
MEAN...

WE'RE
GOING
THERE
NEXT...

BUT
I'M NOT
SURE
QUITE
WHERE...



HUH?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE THE
"TAKASAKI"
FAMILY
LIVES?



...MISAKI
TAKA-
SAKI
LIVES?

THE
HOUSE
WHERE...



...



THAT'S
THE
TAKASAKI
HOUSE
WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR.

UM...

OH!
YES,
THAT'S
IT.



IT'S...

...NEAR
THE
PARK...

...

...

TH-
THEN
...

IT'S
BEHIND
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
NO. 2...



I CAN'T
GIVE YOU
THAT
INFORMA-
TION.

UM!

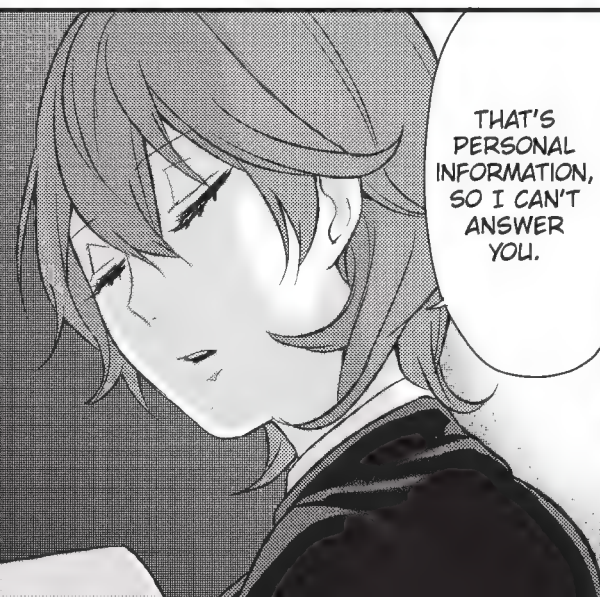
DOES
THAT
MEAN
THAT
MISAKI
GOT HER
NOTICE?



OH!
I SEE,
THAT'S
IT.

LOOK,
MOTOI'S
MAP IS
WRONG.

SORRY,
SORRY!



THAT'S
PERSONAL
INFORMATION,
SO I CAN'T
ANSWER
YOU.



SH-
SHE'S A
FRIEND!

TELL US
WHAT HE'S
LIKE, AT
LEAST...







YOU
DON'T
KNOW
YET
IF IT'S
FOR
HER!

IT
MIGHT
BE FOR
HER
BROTHER
OR
SOME-
THING!



SNAP
OUT
OF IT,
YUKARI!

SMACK



IT'S NO
USE...
I CAN'T
DO
ANY-
THING.

IT'S
NO
USE,
OKAY?!



WHO
ELSE
WOULD
IT BE
FOR...

...IF NOT
HER?!



AS
FAR
AS I
KNOW...

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN...
DOESN'T
HAVE
ANY
OLDER
SIBLINGS
...



THEY'RE
NOT,
RIGHT?!



ARE
YOUR
FEELINGS...

...FOR
MISAKI
THAT
WEAK?!



LILI-
NA.



IF...

IF
IT IS,
I'M...

...DISAP-
POINTED.

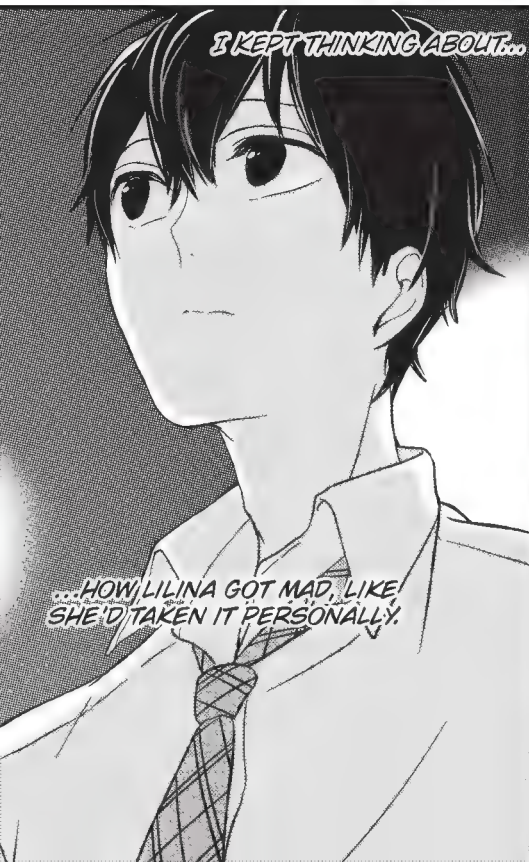


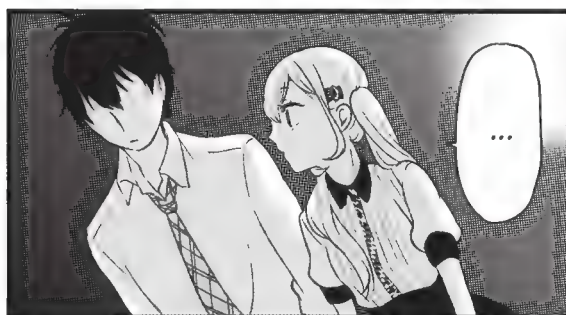
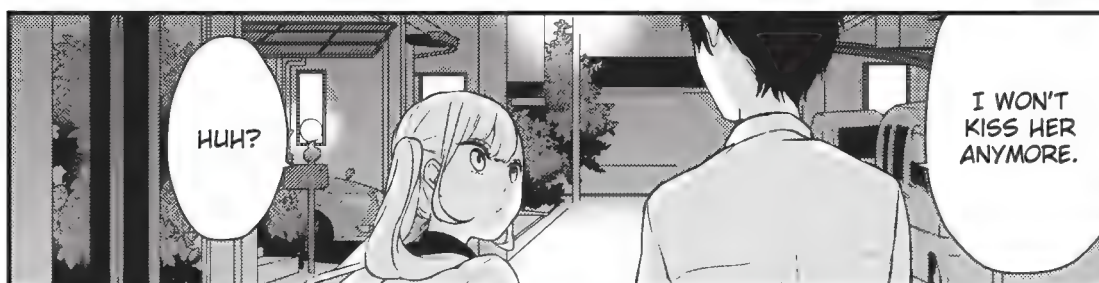
I
WOULDN'T
HELP
YOU IF
I DIDN'T!

I
THOUGHT
THEY
WERE
MORE
THAN
THAT,
AT
LEAST!

IS A
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE
ALL IT
TAKES
FOR YOU
TO GIVE
UP?!







...IS WAY
WEIRDER.

I THINK
A WORLD
WHERE YOU
CAN'T KISS
THE ONE
YOU
LOVE...

MORN-
ING!

MORN-
ING!

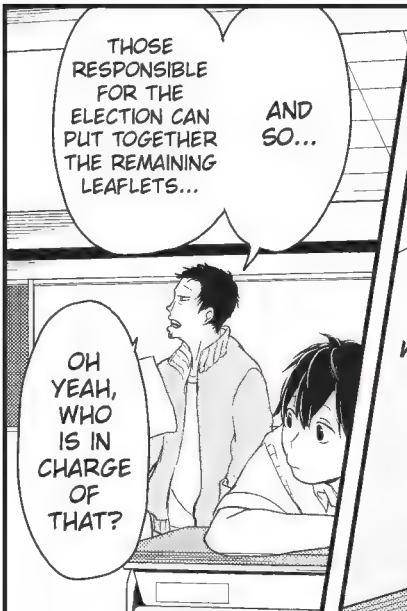
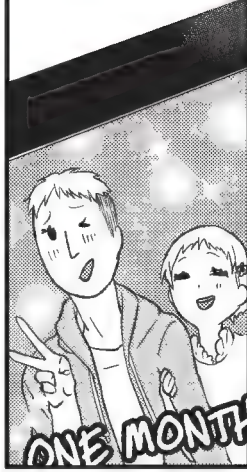
SHE'S
HERE!

IT'S
TAKASAKI-
SAN!

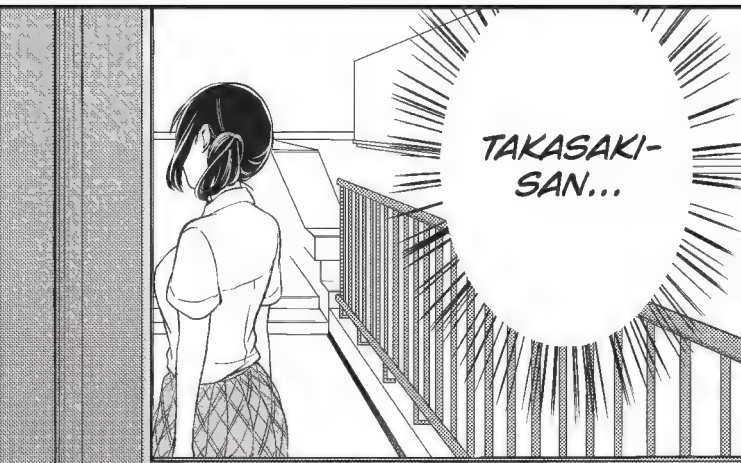
MISAKI
WAS
ALMOST
LATE!
THAT
NEVER
HAPPENS!

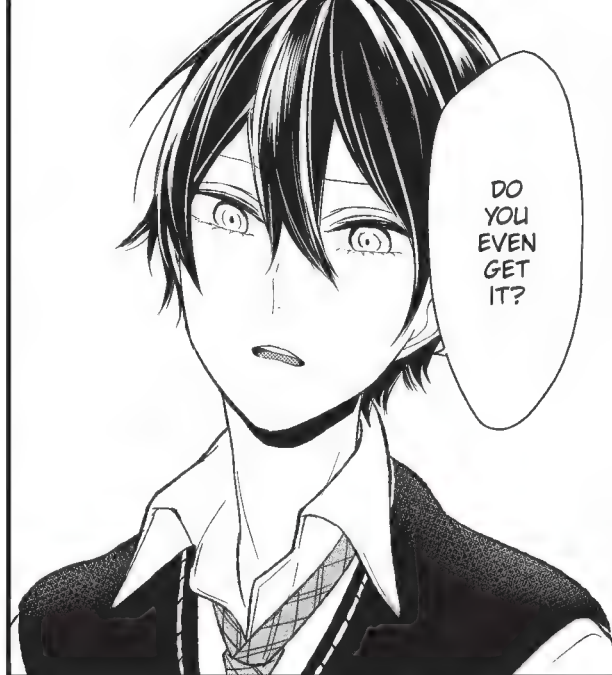
EHE!
~
~
~

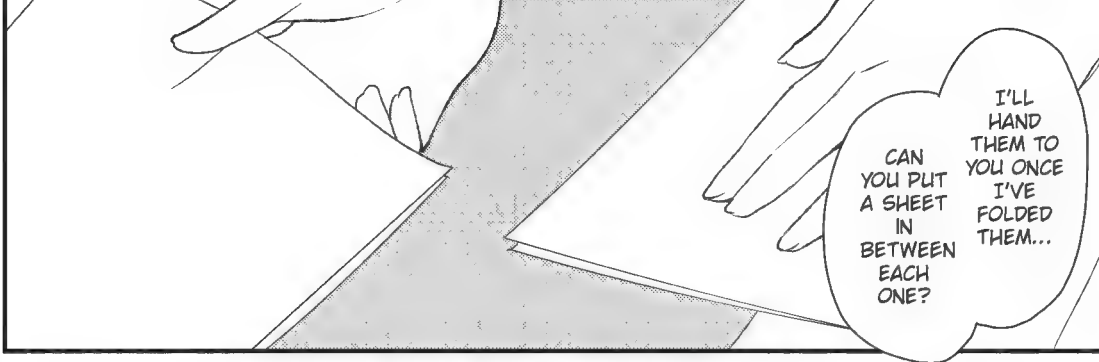
I WAS
JUST
CARELESS!











I'LL HAND THEM TO YOU ONCE I'VE FOLDED THEM...
CAN YOU PUT A SHEET IN BETWEEN EACH ONE?



TAKASAKI-SAN HAS A GREAT COMPLEXION...

HER SKIN IS SO SMOOTH AND SOFT...

...



OKAY.



...



UM... YESTERDAY...

TH- THIS MIGHT BE WEIRD OF ME TO ASK, BUT...

HMM... WHAT?



...STOP THAT!



DID
SOMEONE
FROM
THE
MINISTRY...

...COME
TO SEE
YOU?



YES.







OH...
IS THAT
IT...

OH,
THEY
JUST
HAD
BUSINESS
AT MY
HOUSE.

IT
HAD
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH ME.

OH! THAT'S
SO FUNNY!

くすくす
giggle



I
HAVEN'T
GOTTEN
IT!

NO
WAY!

HUH?
BUT
YESTERDAY
SOMEONE
FROM THE
MINISTRY...



BUT THEN
WHAT KIND
OF BUSINESS
DID THEY
HAVE THERE?

PHEW...JEEZ,
THEN I WAS
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS...



HUH?

...CAN I
ASK
WHAT
YOU
TOLD
THEM?



THEY
CAME
TO ASK
HOW
THINGS
WERE
GOING
SINCE WE
GOT OUR
NOTICES.

OH,
LIKE
...

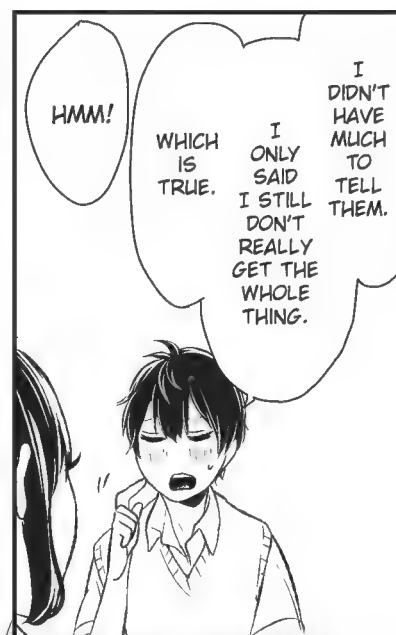
ANYWAY,
WHY
DID THE
MINISTRY
AGENTS
COME TO
YOUR PLACE,
NEJIMA-KUN?



I THINK YOU AND LILINA-CHAN...

...ARE A GOOD MATCH, THOUGH.

HUH? WHY?!



HMM!

WHICH IS TRUE.

I ONLY SAID I STILL DON'T REALLY GET THE WHOLE THING.

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO TELL THEM.



YOU'RE NOT VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT YOURSELVES, BUT...

...YOU CAN BOTH BE REALLY DEDICATED FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SAKE.

I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHY, BUT...

...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE KIND OF ALIKE.



YESTER-DAY...



THAT'S TRUE!

LILINA-CHAN'S A LOT MORE RECKLESS AND STRONG-WILLED, THOUGH.





BUT
WHOEVER
HE IS, I'LL
STILL...



WHEN
YOU DO
GET YOUR
NOTICE, I
WONDER
WHAT
HE'LL BE
LIKE...

THEY'LL
...

...COME
TO YOU
EVENTUALLY
TOO,
HUH?



HUH?

HMM...
BUT...

I
DON'T
REALLY
CARE
WHAT
HE'S
LIKE.



BECAUSE...

YOU'RE
THE
ONLY
ONE...

...WHO'S
SPECIAL
TO ME.



WHOEVER
HE IS,
THAT
WON'T
CHANGE.

FWOO



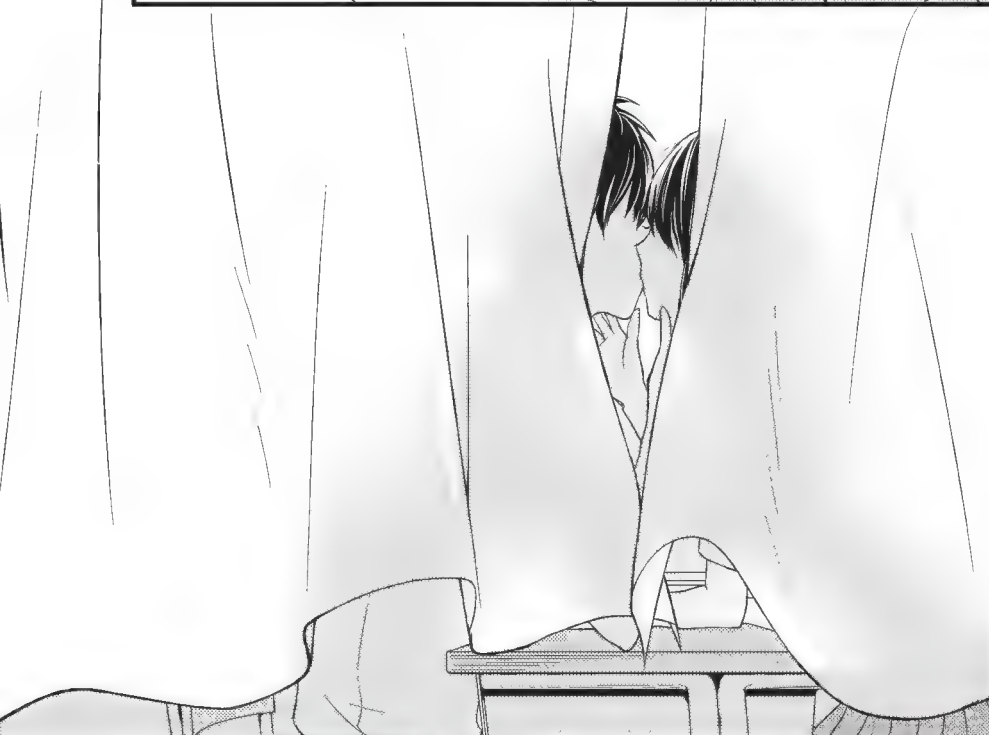
IN THAT
MOMENT
...



I
IMAGINED

...

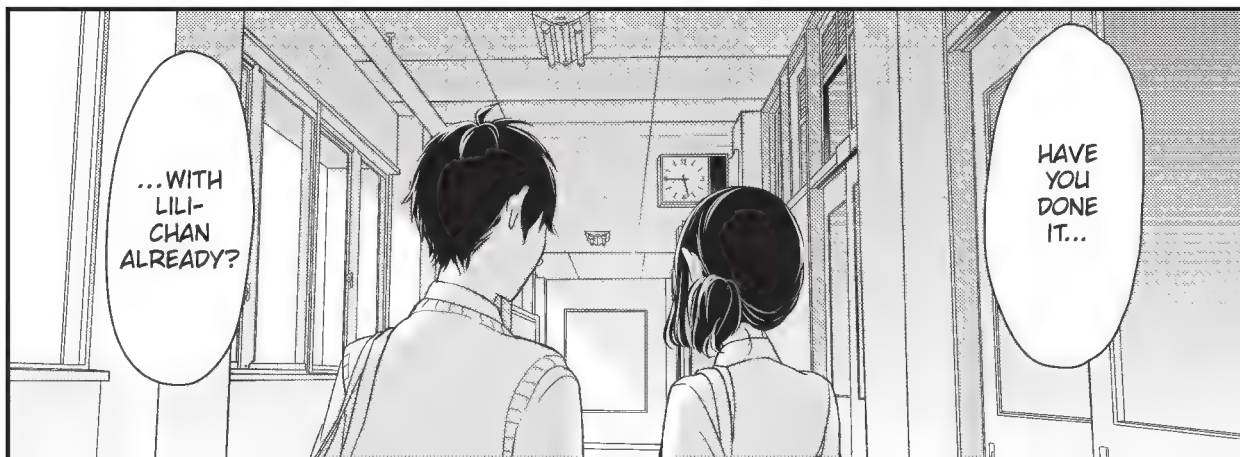
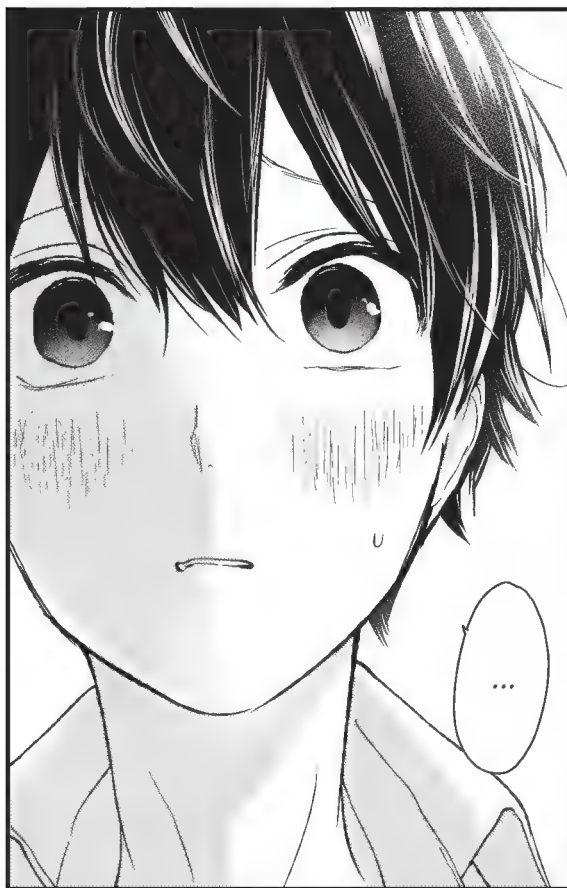
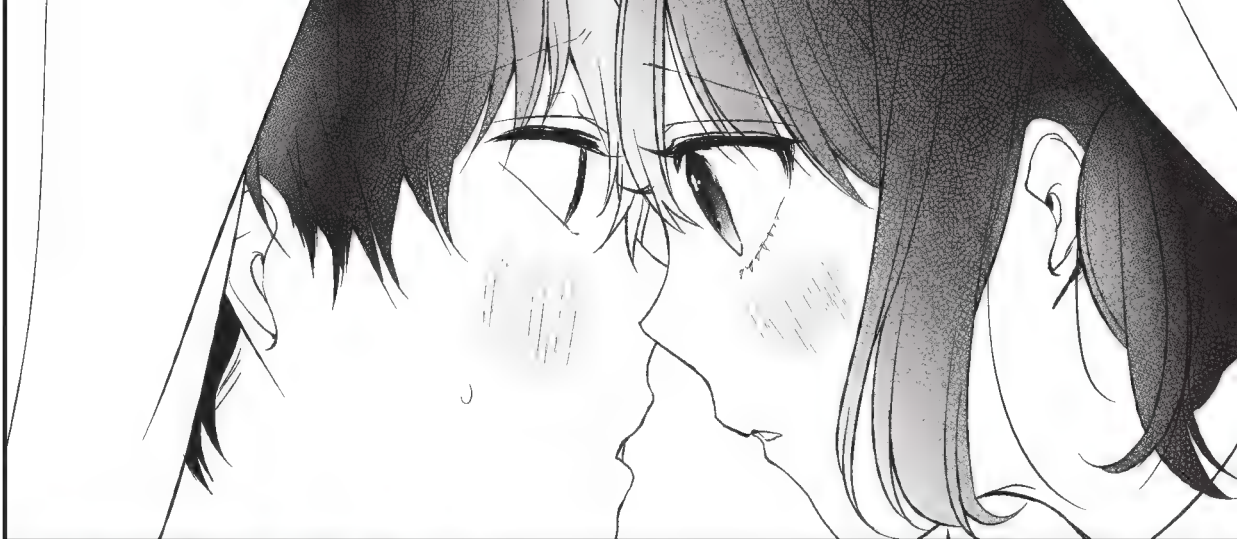
...THAT
WE...



...WERE
THE
ONLY
PEOPLE...



...IN THE
WORLD.



...

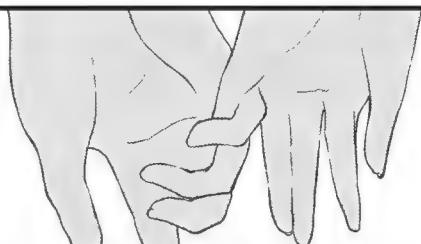
PEOPLE
MIGHT
LAUGH AT
US FOR
CLINGING
SO
HARD...



NO...

I
HAVEN'T.

...DISAPPEAR
THE NEXT
DAY..



...TO A
LOVE
THAT
MIGHT...

REMEM-
BERING
THAT
MADE ME
FEEL A
LITTLE
GUILTY...

...AND
VERY
RELIEVED.

...LILINA-
CHAN
ISN'T
LAUGHING,
I GUESS.

BUT AT
LEAST...



"I THINK A WORLD
WHERE YOU CAN'T
KISS THE ONE YOU
LOVE IS WAY
WEIRDER."







FOR
REAL?!

SHE
SAID
SHE'S
COMING.



SO
WHAT...

...DID
SHE
SAY?



...YEAH, I'M
DEFINITELY
GOING TO BE
OVERWHELMED.

T-TWO OF THEM
AND ONE OF ME,
HUH? THIS IS
GOING TO BE
TROUBLE...
THEY'RE GOING
TO OVERWHELM US
WITH NUMBERS!



I
GOT
IT!

DON'T
BRING
ANYONE
TOO
WEIRD!



H-HEY!

CAN I
INVITE A
FRIEND
TOO?

SURE,
BUT...



A GOOD
GUY WITH
TIME ON
HIS
HANDS!

I NEED TO
GET ONE
MORE GUY
TO COME,
WHATEVER
IT TAKES!





WHY YOU WANT ME TO COME.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW ...

NO. INVITE TAKEDA.

I-IS THERE NO WAY YOU COULD...



...



HOW ON EARTH DO YOU THINK I COULD?

WITH YOUR FACE?

IF WE SEE A BEAR I WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT!



I'LL CRY IF I SEE A CRICKET.

SO AM I.

I'M SCARED OF BUGS!



NEITHER CAN I.

I CAN'T MAKE A FIRE, YOU KNOW!



COME ON!



I'M EATING, TOO!

WITH YOU! I CAME HERE SO WE COULD EAT TOGETHER!

I'M TRYING TO EAT! GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!

GO AWAY!



*RICE CAKES WITH FILLING





**YESSS!
THANKS,
NISAKA!**

MUMBLE

何そっ

...
CAMPING
WITH
ANOTHER
GUY...
UGH...



YEAH,
THAT'S
FINE.

SURE!
THE ONES
FROM THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE?

LIKE THIS?



I'M
REALLY
GLAD
YOU'RE
COMING!

...
BEING
STUCK
BETWEEN
TAKASAKI-
SAN AND
LILINA!

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW I
WAS
GOING
TO
MANAGE
...

BUT MAN!
YOU REALLY
SAVED MY
BACON!



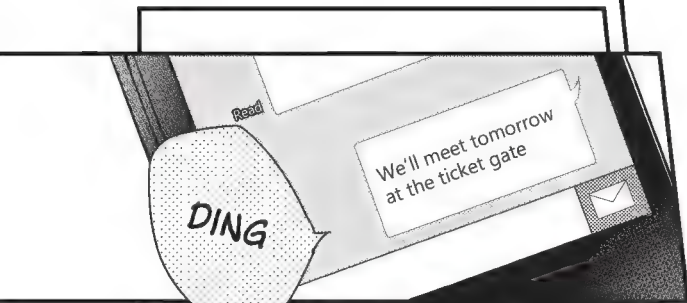
...HUH?

...

...



THE DAY
BEFORE
THE TRIP



DING

We'll meet tomorrow
at the ticket gate

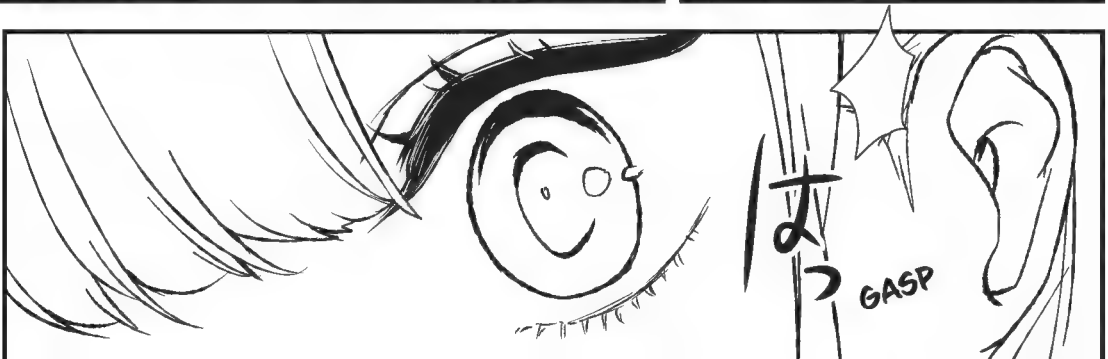
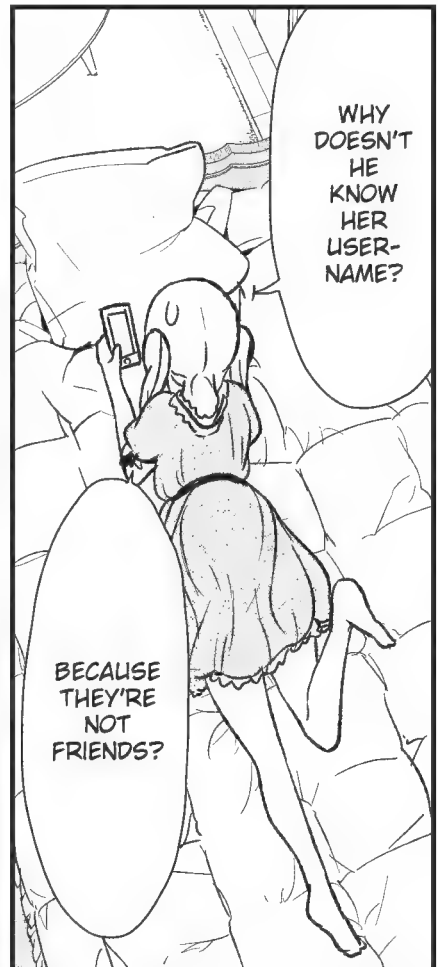
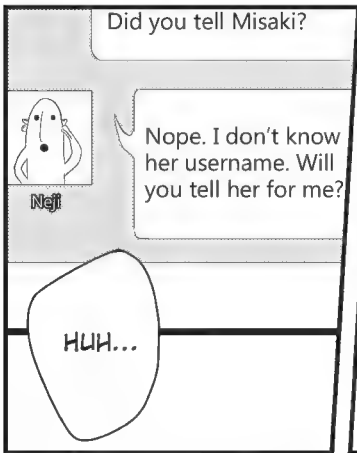


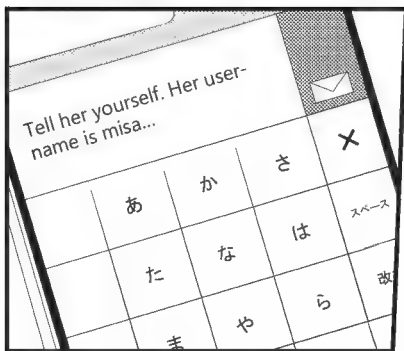
OH! I'LL
SEND
THIS TO
NISAKA,
TOO.
WON-
DER IF
HE'LL
SEE
IT...

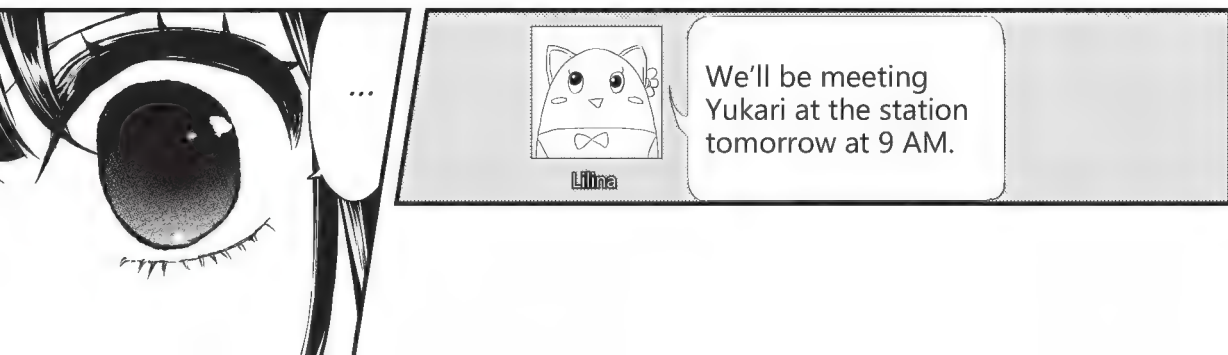


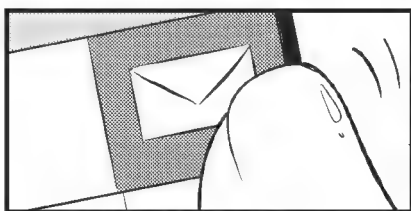
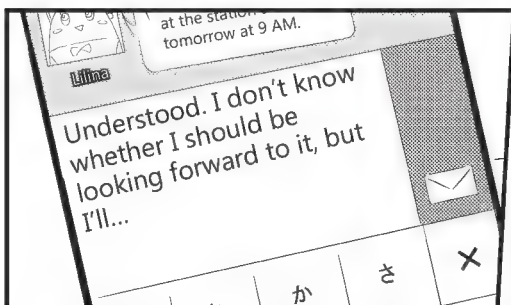
DING

9 AM...
OKAY.

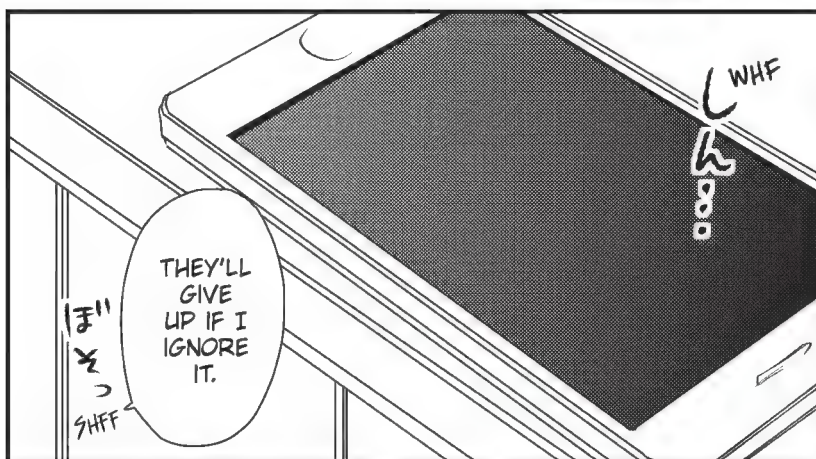


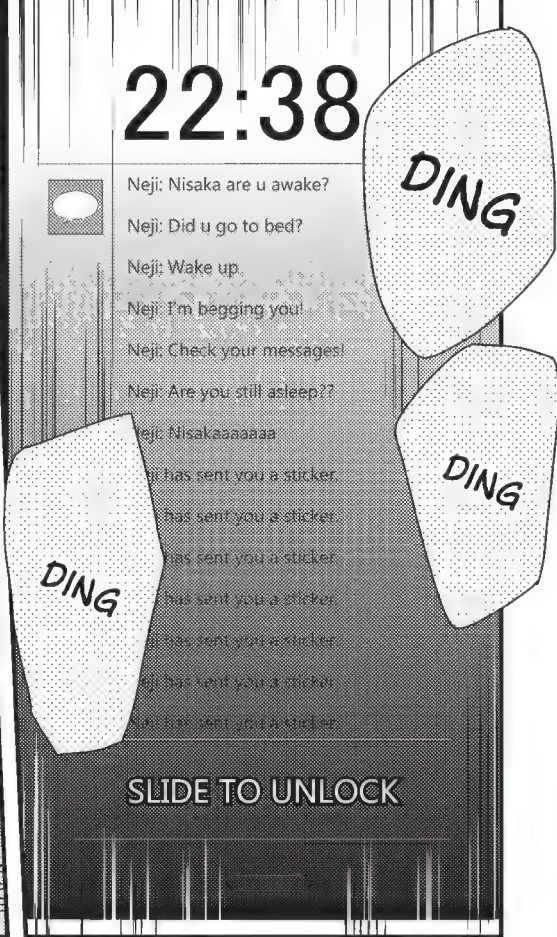
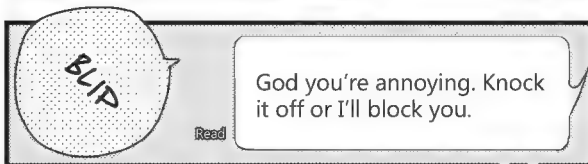




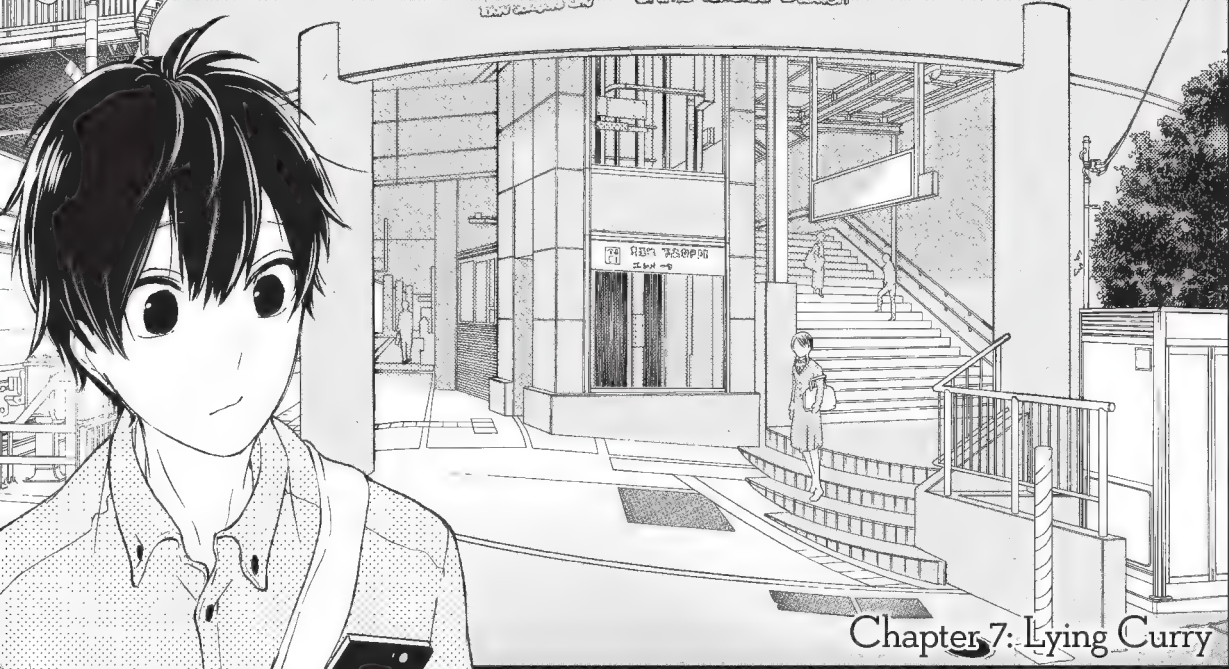








Love & Lies



Chapter 7: Lying Curry



WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO MEET
UP AT
NINE,
BUT...

YOU GO
MEET UP WITH
LILINA-CHAN
AND THE
OTHERS AT
THE STATION
AND COME BY
TRAIN.

HERE'S THE
MONEY FOR
YOUR FARE!

LISTEN,
I HAVE TO
TAKE CARE
OF KIZUNA, SO
I'M GOING
AHEAD IN THE
CAR WITH
LILINA-CHAN'S
PARENTS.



NISA
...

OH!



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DOING A PHOTO SHOOT FOR A MAGAZINE OR SOMETHING... SO I CHECKED AROUND JUST IN CASE...





YOU DON'T
REMEMBER?
YOU PICKED
THIS OUT
FOR ME.

WHAT
THE
HECK IS
THAT?

YOU'RE
LIKE A
MISSIONARY
OF STYLE
TO ME!

NOT
AT
ALL!

ARE
YOU
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?

I MEAN,
YOU WERE
LOOKING
SO STYLISH
AND COOL!



DID I?

...



NO NEED
TO MAKE
SUCH A
BIG DEAL
OUT OF
IT.

YOU REALLY DON'T
REMEMBER?

I FELT
LIKE
HISTORY
WAS IN
MOTION
THAT DAY!

THAT
DAY WE
WENT
SHOPPING
WAS LIKE
MY HIGH
SCHOOL
DEBUT
TO ME!



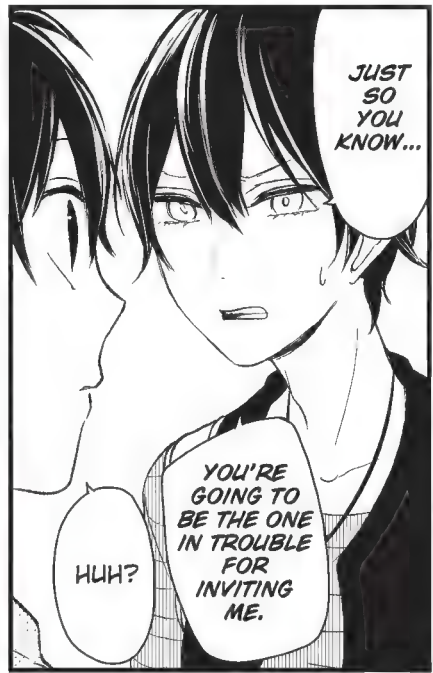
HMM...
SHE
WAS?

AND I
SAID
SHE'S
REALLY
PRETTY!

YOU
DID!
YOU
TOTALLY
DID!

WE
STOPPED
BY YOUR
HOUSE
BEFORE
WE WENT
AND YOUR
MOM WAS
THERE!

47
FROWN











UH...
WELL,
I...

HEY!
YOU USED
TO CALL ME
"SAWA," BUT
NOW IT'S
"SAKURAGI-SAN"?
YOU'RE
TREATING
ME LIKE A
STRANGER!

♪
YOU'RE
SO
WEIRD!



HUH? WHO
IS SHE?

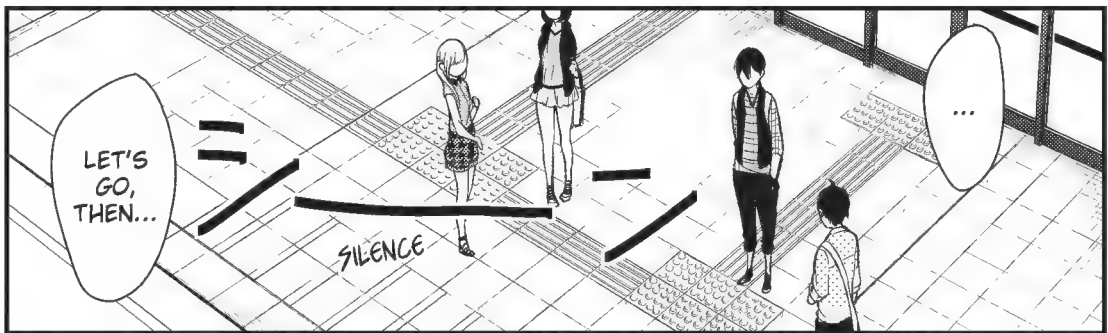
YOU
WERE
ALWAYS
COOL, BUT
NOW IT'S
LIKE
YOU'VE
GROWN
UP INTO
A STUD!

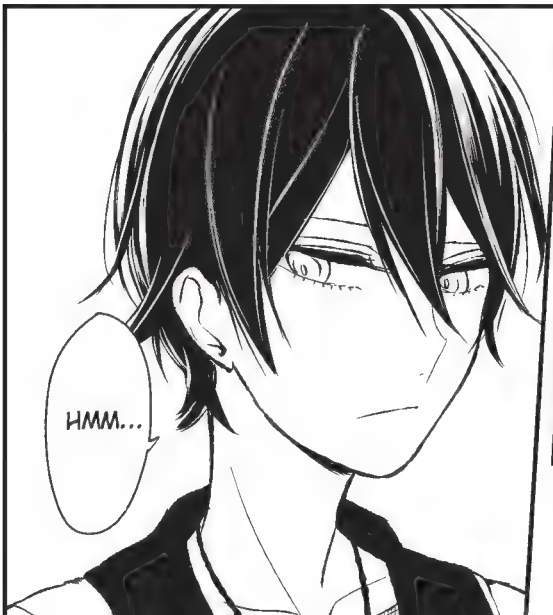
AND
YOU
LOOK
PRETTY
COOL
NOW,
TOO!

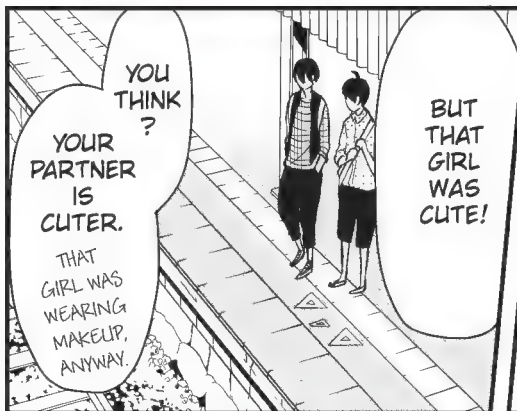
SOMEONE
NISAKA
KNOWS?



...?











CRUSH (?)
CLASSMATE
(?)

IT'S
HARD
TO PIN
HER
DOWN...



FIANCÉE
(PROBA-
BLY)

I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
WHAT SHE
WANTS,
THOUGH...



FRIEND.



NISAKA-
KUN...



BUT I
THINK ALL OF
US ARE JUST
CONFUSED
ABOUT IT.

IF WE WERE TWO
COUPLES, THIS
WOULD BE A DOUBLE
DATE, AND MAYBE IT
DOES LOOK LIKE
WE'RE ONE ONE...



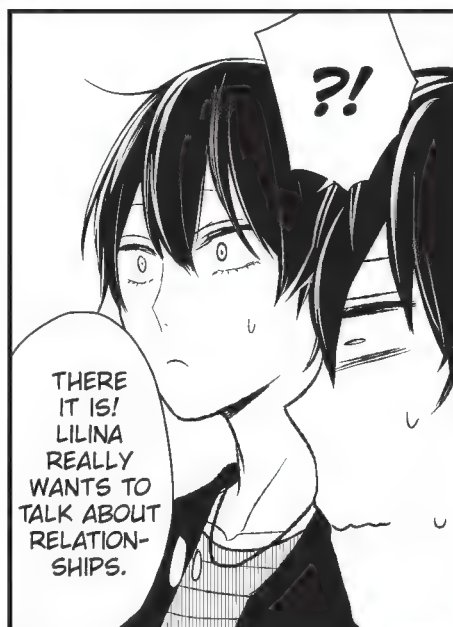
WELL,
YOU JUST
SEEMED
CLOSE.

WHY
DO YOU
THINK
THAT?



SPFFT

WAS
THAT YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?



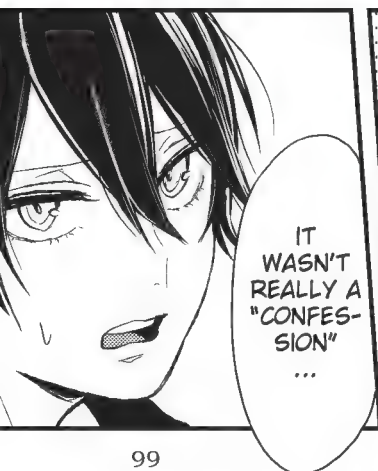
?!

THERE
IT IS!
LILINA
REALLY
WANTS TO
TALK ABOUT
RELATION-
SHIPS.



HUH?
LOVE
TALK?!

WE
DATED,
BUT IT WAS
A LONG
TIME AGO.
WE'RE NOT
TOGETHER
ANYMORE.



IT
WASN'T
REALLY A
"CONFES-
SION"
...

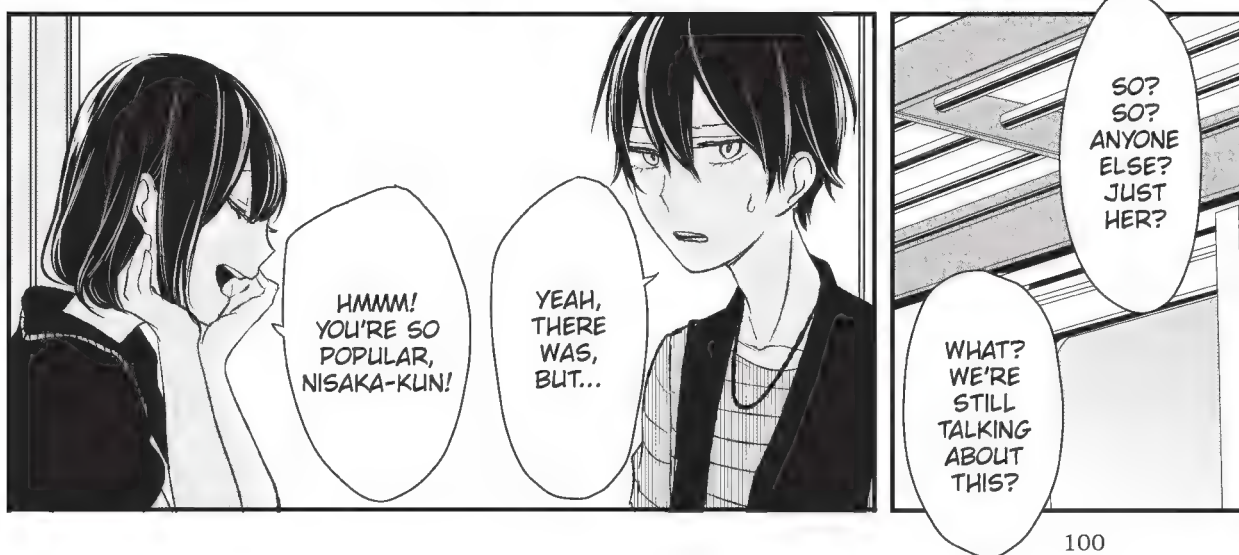


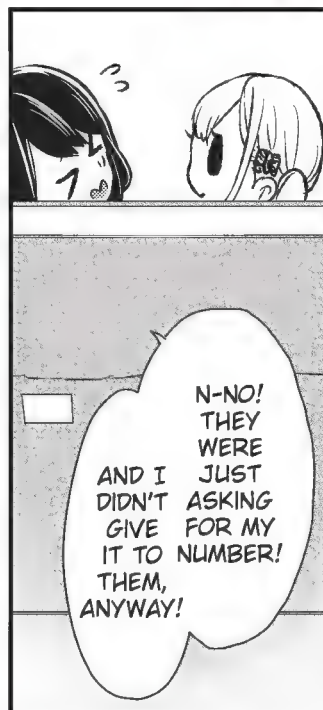
WHAT?

HEY!
LILINA!

THAT
BROWN-
HAired
GIRL
FROM
BEFORE,
HUH?

WHICH
OF YOU
CONFESSED
YOUR
FEELINGS
FIRST?









HUH?



BUT NOW...

I DON'T THINK IT'S SO BAD.



WELL... BASICALLY ...

ARE YOU GUYS ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

HMM ...



AHA HAHHA! OH!

BLUSH
キキキ

LILINA-CHAN!

I GOT TO BE FRIENDS WITH MISAKI, AFTER ALL!



...THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE,

HUH...

MUTTER
ムム



CHATTER

MISAKI!
COME ON,
COME ON!

HUH? I
WONDER
WHERE
THEY'RE
GOING...



WE'RE
HERE!



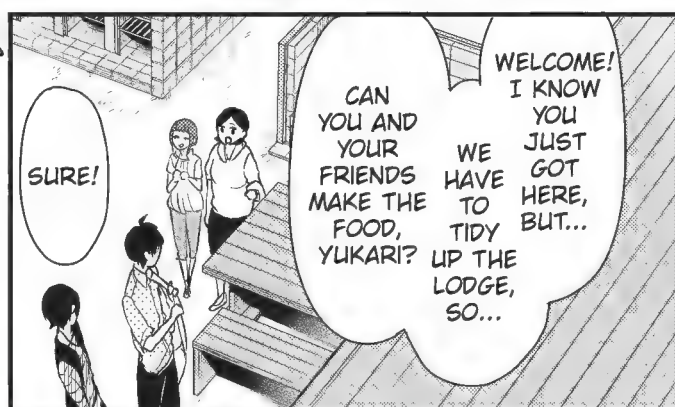
GASP

I BET
HE'S
LIKE AN
AWESOME
COOK!

LIKE
THE TYPE
TO POUR
OLIVE
OIL IN
FROM ONE
METER
UP!!

I CAN COUNT
ON HIM,
THEN!

NISA'S
KITCHEN



SURE!

CAN
YOU AND
YOUR
FRIENDS
MAKE THE
FOOD,
YUKARI?

WE
HAVE TO
TIDY
UP THE
LODGE,
SO...

WELCOME!
I KNOW
YOU
JUST
GOT
HERE,
BUT...



NO,
IT'S
OKAY.

WE'RE
MAKING
CURRY...

OH!
SORRY
FOR
SUDDENLY
ROPING
YOU INTO
HELPING,
NISAKA.



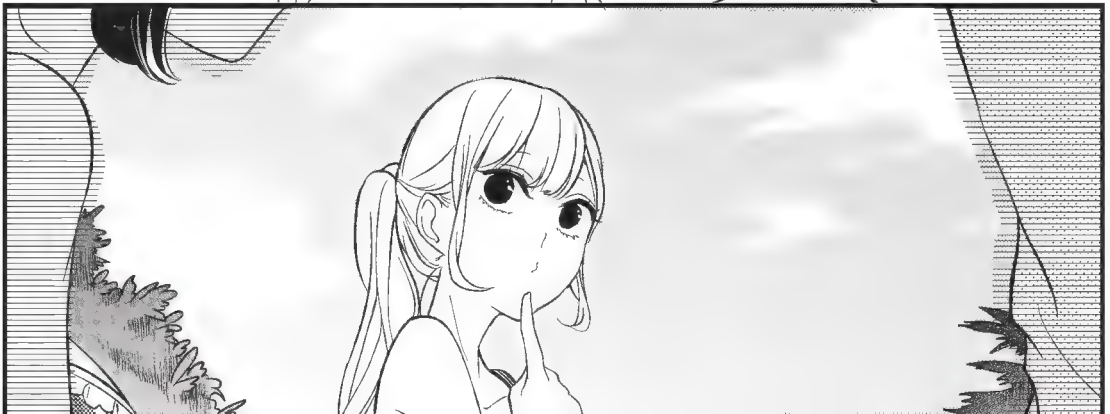


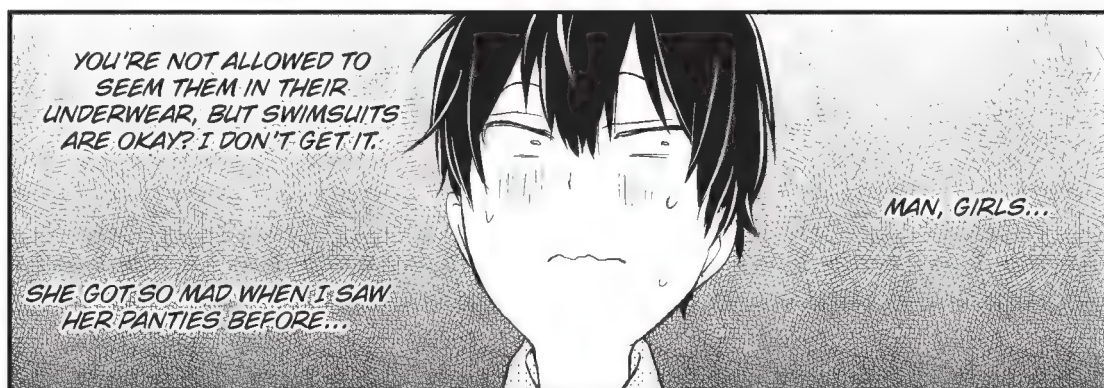


















NEVER MIND
YOUR CLOTHES
ARE GETTING
WET
AND I'M
HEAVY...

Y-YU-
YUKARI!

KINDA
AWKWARD
...

THIS
IS...



STEP

STEP

STEP



HUH? YOU
MEAN
KIZUNA-
CHAN?!

MY
CLOTHES
WILL
DRY...

YOU'RE
NOT MUCH
HEAVIER
THAN MY
SISTER.
IT'S FINE.

ARE YOU
EATING
PROPERLY?



TWITCH

...?



THERE'S
NO WAY!
THE
DIFFERENCE
IN
PHYSIQUE...

BETWEEN
MYSELF
AND SUCH
A
NEONATE
IS TOO
GREAT!

LILI-
CHWA-
AAA!

"NEO-
NATE"?





GIRLS' SKIN IS SO AMAZING...

BUT MAN...

IT'S REALLY SOFT AND SMOOTH...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT IT...



あ
あ
あ
...
BLUSH



TWITCH

AHNI!



AND SHE KIND OF SMELLS NICE TOO...

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE SHE GOT WET?

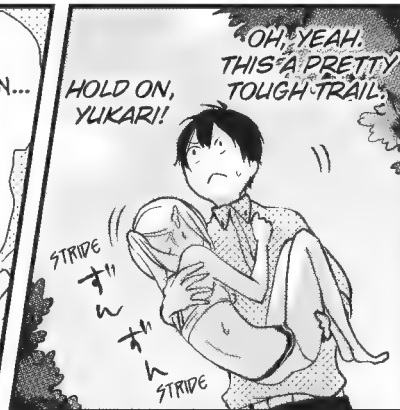
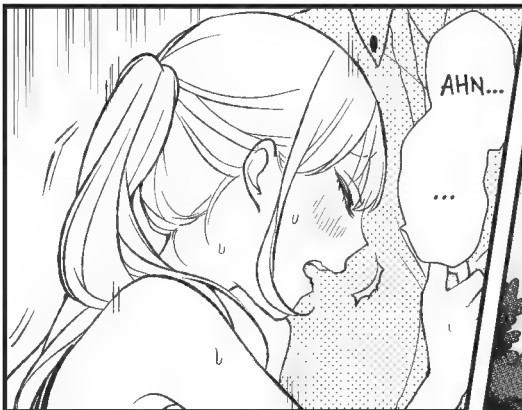


SLIDE
3
...

HOIST

OH...

I SHOULD TRY NOT TO DROP HER...











I LIKE
BOTH
NEJIMA-
KUN...

AND
LILINA-
CHAN...



HMM.

...SO
THAT'S
WHY.



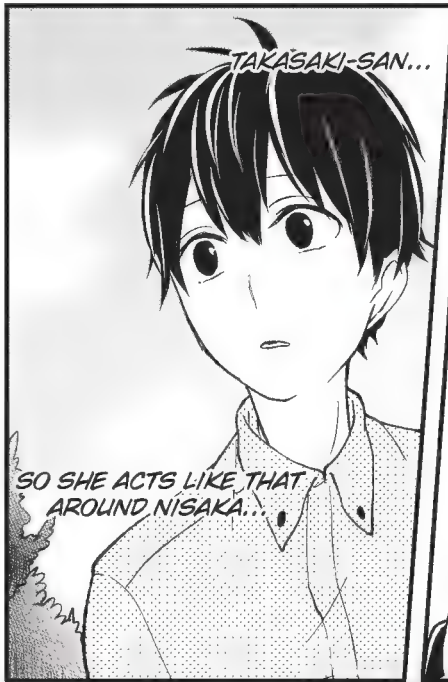
WHEN
I SAID
I WAS
GOING...

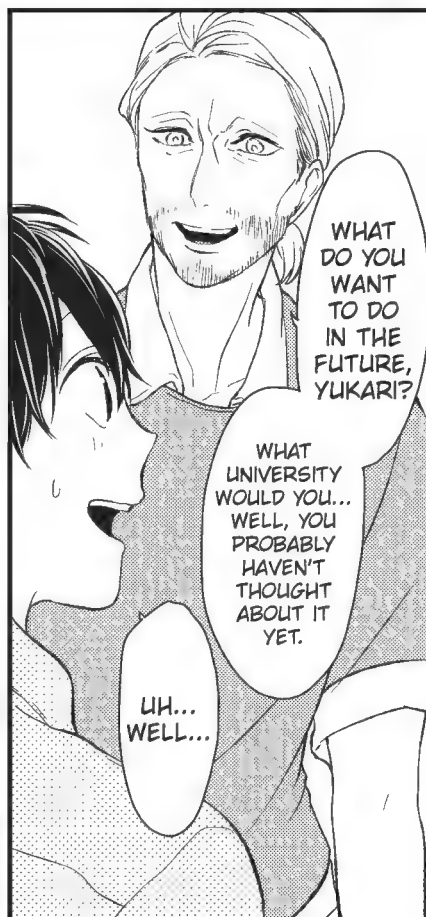
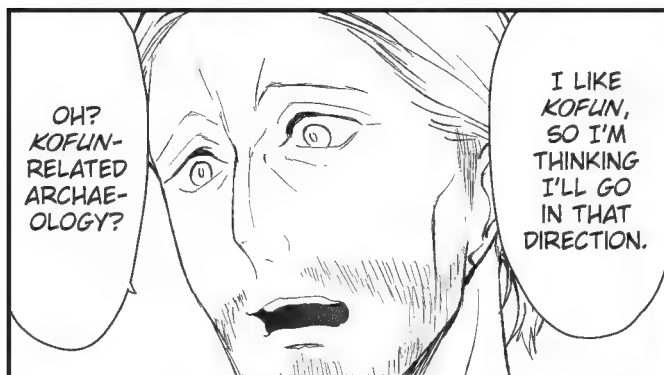
LILI-
CHAN
WAS SO
HAPPY...

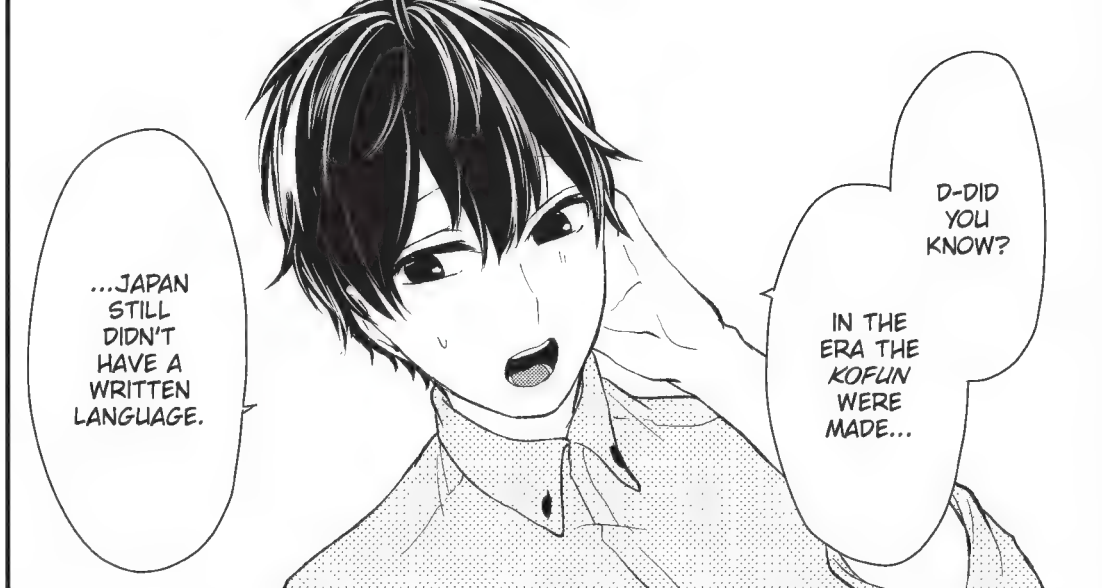


HMM?

WHAT
THE HECK
IS WITH
HER?







...JAPAN
STILL
DIDN'T
HAVE A
WRITTEN
LANGUAGE.

D-DID
YOU
KNOW?

IN THE
ERA THE
KOFUN
WERE
MADE...



DON'T
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
AMAZING?



NOBODY EVEN
KNOWS WHAT
THE PEOPLE
BURIED THERE
WERE LIKE,
WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE THOUGHT
OF THEM, OR
WHY THEY
WERE
ENSHRINED
THERE.

WE
CAN
ONLY
IMAGINE.

SO WE
DON'T
KNOW
VERY
MUCH
ABOUT
THOSE
AMAZING
GRAVES...
...THAT
HAVE
BEEN
PART OF
OUR
GEOGRAPHY
FOR NEARLY
TWO
THOUSAND
YEARS.



SUCH A HUGE GRAVE
SHOULD MAKE THAT
PERSON'S IDENTITY
SO DEFINITE...

AND THEN THERE'S THE
MOMENT YOU STEP INTO THE
SITE... FOLLOWING THE
TRACES LEFT BEHIND THAT
MAY BE REAL OR FAKE...

BUT INSTEAD THEY'RE FULL
OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

IMAGINING THE LORD
OF THAT KOFUN...



I THINK
I'D LIKE TO
STUDY UNDER
PROFESSOR
FURLIMORI,
WHO DOES
CLASSES
AT THE
PREFECTURAL
UNIVERSITY
WITH LOTS OF
FIELD
EXCAVATION...

SO FOR
NOW...



AND
HOPEFULLY
I CAN DO
SOME
EXCAVATION
RESEARCH
ON MY
DAYS
OFF!

AND
THEN GET
CERTIFIED
AS A
CURATOR
AND WORK
AT AN
ARTIFACT
MUSEUM
AFTER I
GRADUATE...



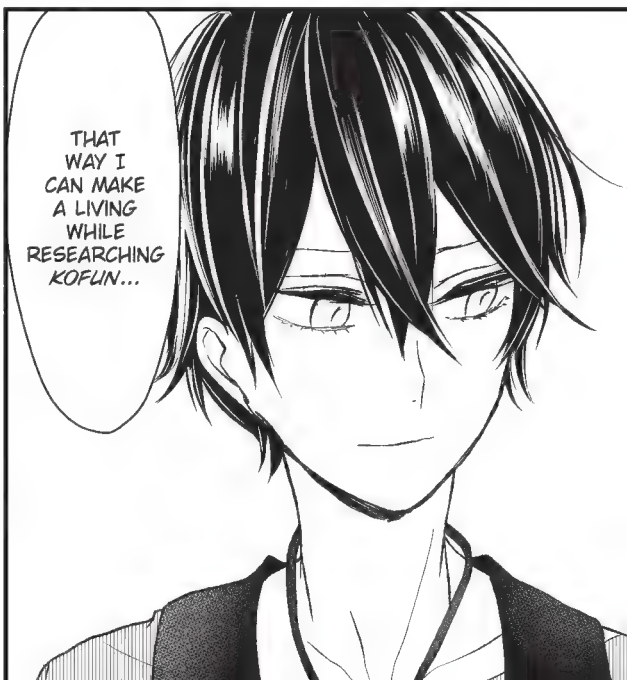
I
REALLY
LOVE
THAT
MOMENT!



NO,
IT'S
OKAY.

IT'S
GREAT
TO HAVE
GOALS.

...SORRY!
I JUST
GET
REALLY
EXCITED
ABOUT
KOFUN!



THAT
WAY I
CAN MAKE
A LIVING
WHILE
RESEARCHING
KOFUN...



DON'T
GIVE
UP.



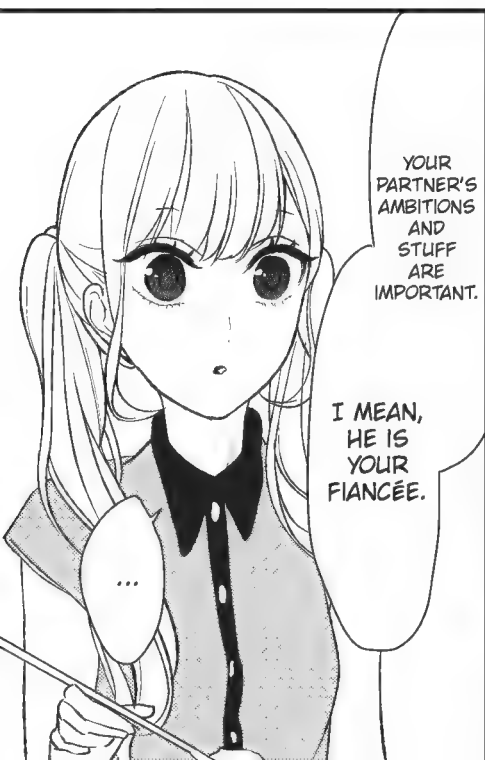
I'VE
ALWAYS
RAMBLED
AND
FAILED
LIKE
THIS,
THOUGH...



BUT
THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU LOVE
THEM
JUST SO
MUCH,
RIGHT?



YES,
SIR!



YOUR
PARTNER'S
AMBITIONS
AND
STUFF
ARE
IMPORTANT.

I MEAN,
HE IS
YOUR
FIANCÉE.



WHAT?

WHY
WOULD
I?

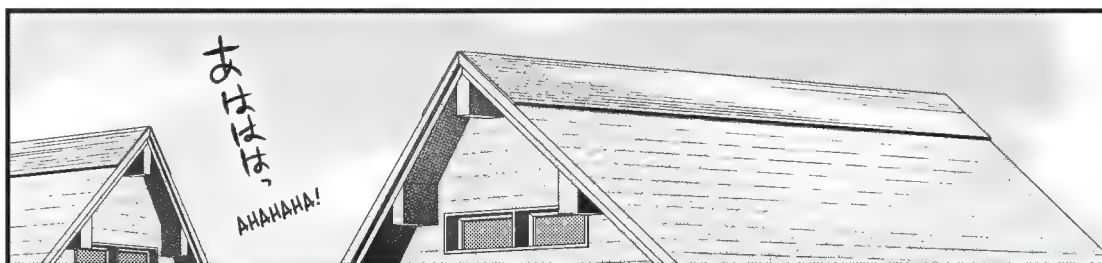
HUH?!

SO DO
YOU TALK
ABOUT
YOUR
FUTURE
AND
STUFF
WITH
NEJI?

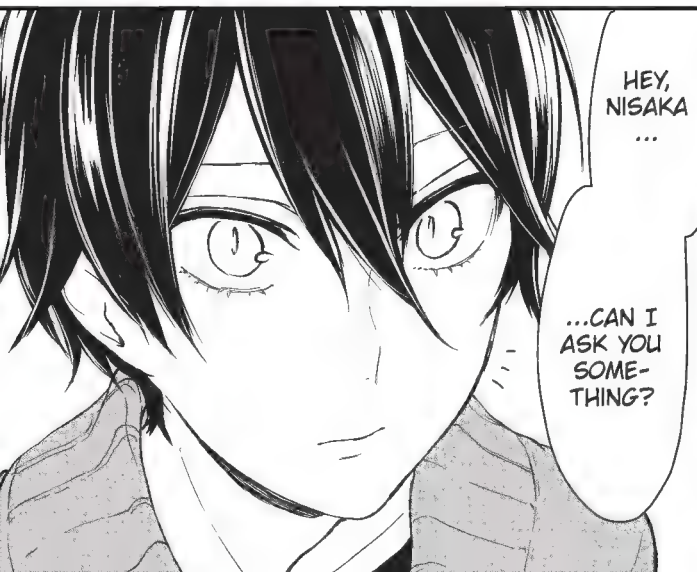


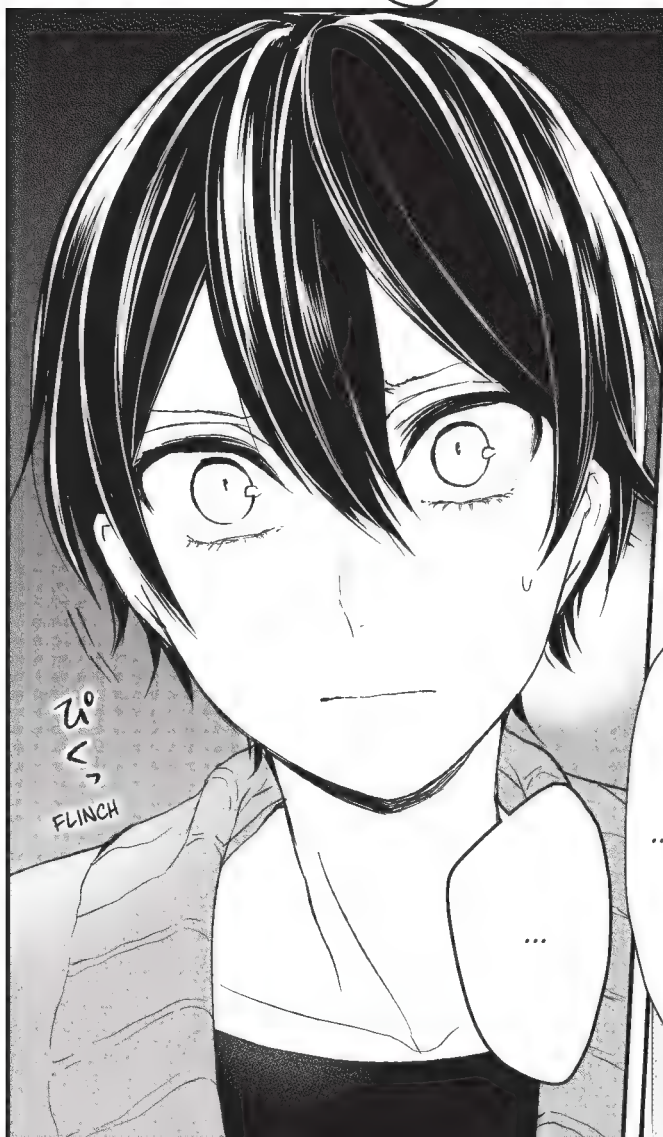
SANADA-
SAN...



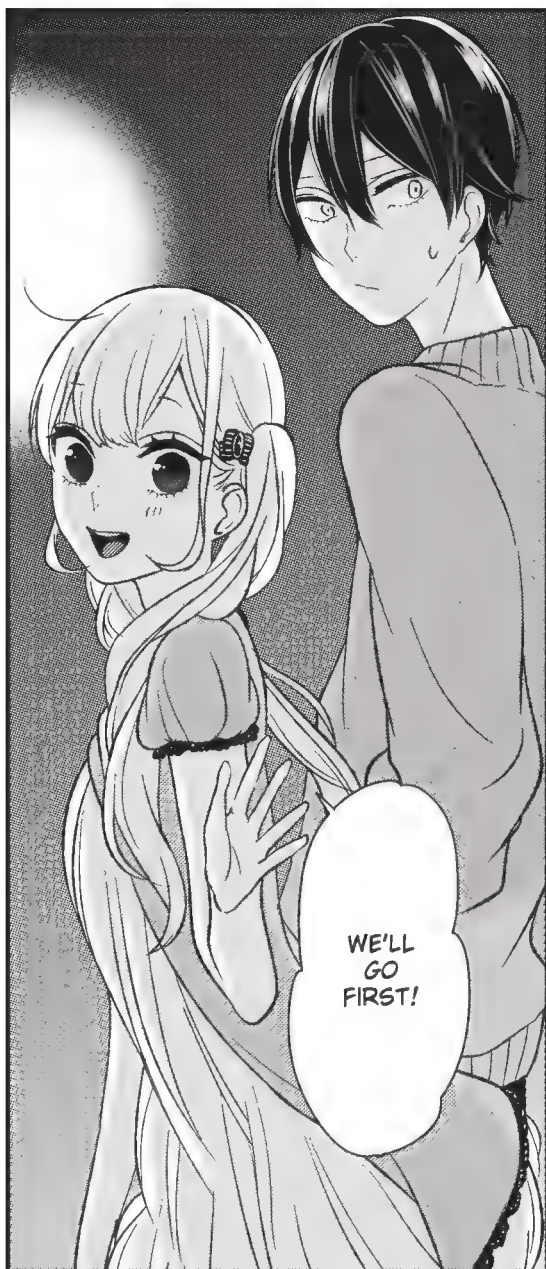


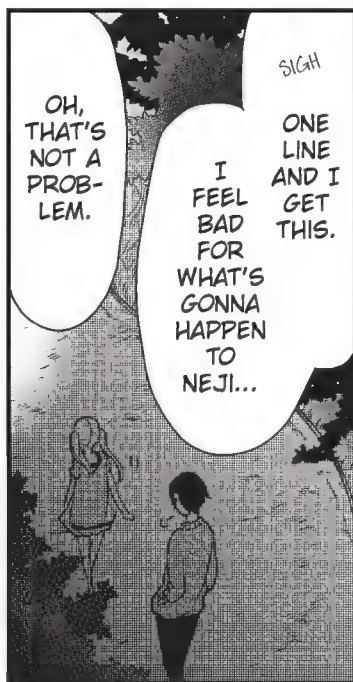


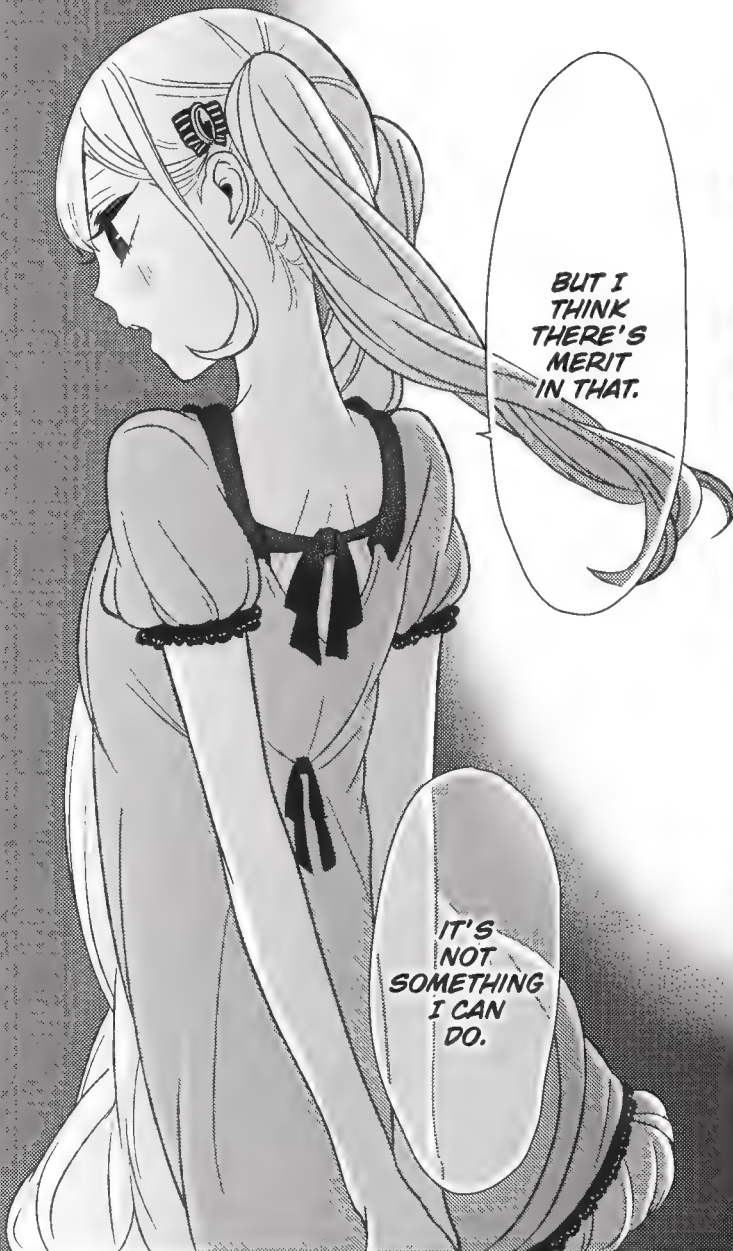












BUT I
THINK
THERE'S
MERIT
IN THAT.

IT'S
NOT
SOMETHING
I CAN
DO.



HE SINCERELY
ACCEPTS WHAT
I HAVE TO SAY
AND TAKES ME
SERIOUSLY.

BOW
MOST PEOPLE
CAN'T DO
THAT... THEIR
PRIDE AND
FEELINGS GET
IN THE WAY.

I'D GO SO FAR
AS TO SAY
HE'S GOT NO
PRIDE...



...WHO?

BUT
ANYWAY,
I
WONDER
HOW
THEY'RE
DOING
RIGHT
NOW?

HEHE
HEHE



OH! WE
HIT THE
POINT
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO TURN
AROUND AT
WHILE WE
WERE
TALKING!

YOU'RE...
SURPRIS-
INGLY...

RUSH
あせあせ
あせ
RUSH





SORRY.
WAS SHE
PRETTY
AGGRESSIVE
INVITING
YOU
CAMPING,
TOO?

OH...
AHAHA... U
U

Y—
YEAH
...

LILINA
IS SO
BOSSY...

SHE'S
THE ONE
WHO
CAME UP
WITH
THIS,
ISN'T
SHE?



...

O-OH...
THAT'S
GOOD...

I WAS
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THIS.



NO,
NOT AT
ALL.



FLAIL
と
と
と

...OH!
ACK!



HM
...?

NO,
IT'S
NOTHING.



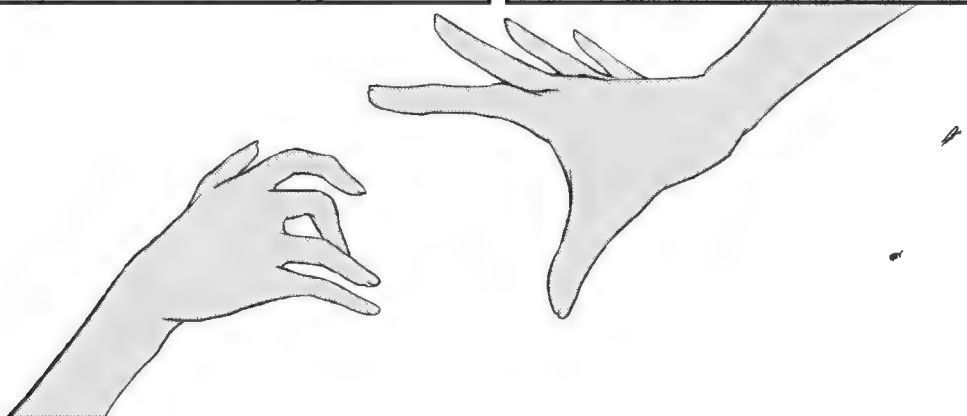
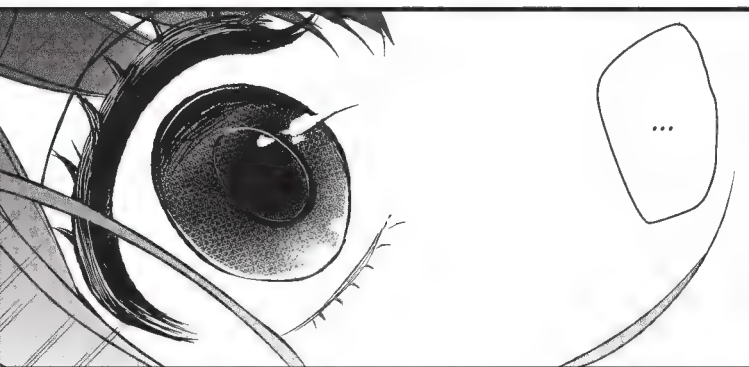
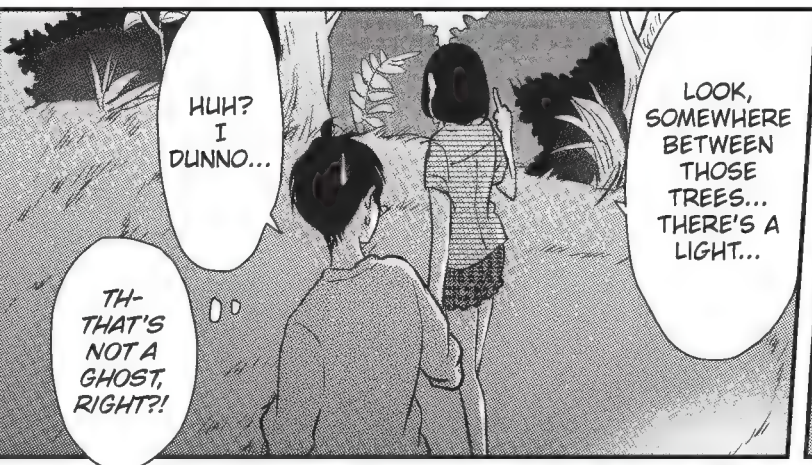
HUH?

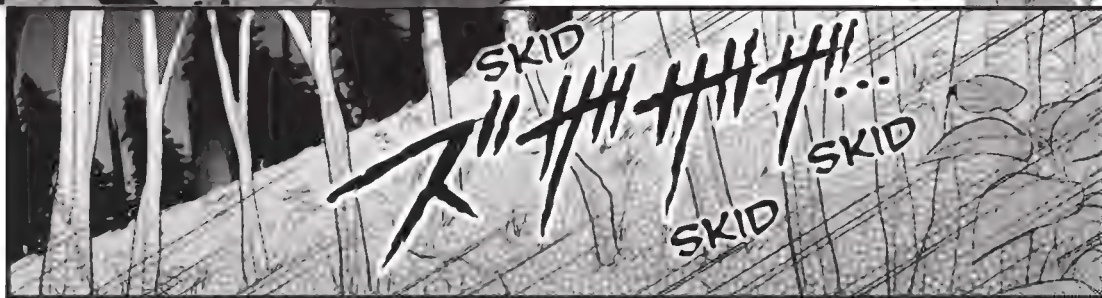
IT'S
LIKE...

SHE'S
ALREADY
FAMILY,
HUH?













SORRY!
ARE YOU
OKAY?



OH!

UH...



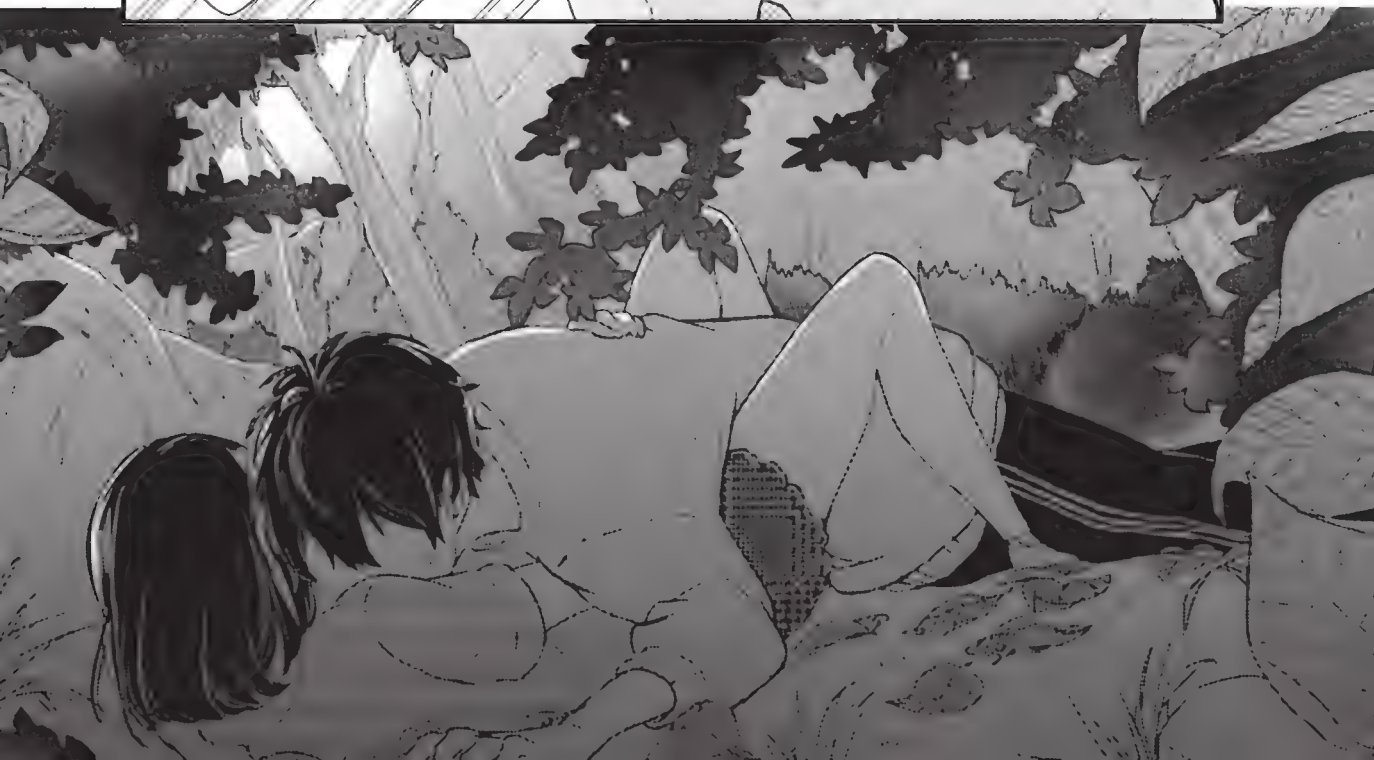
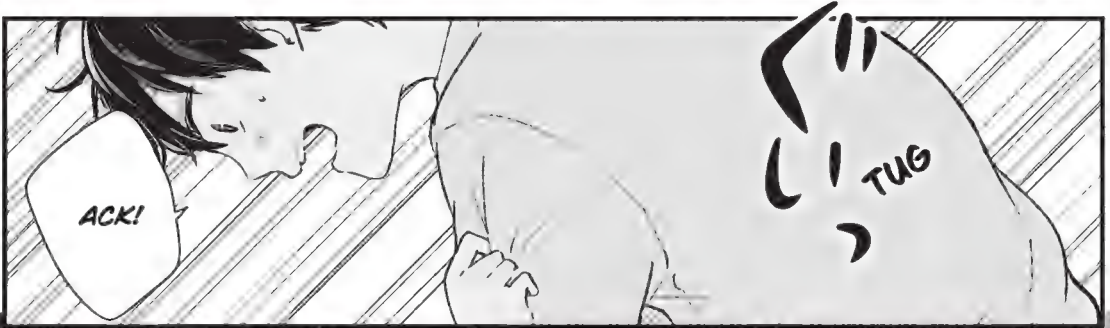
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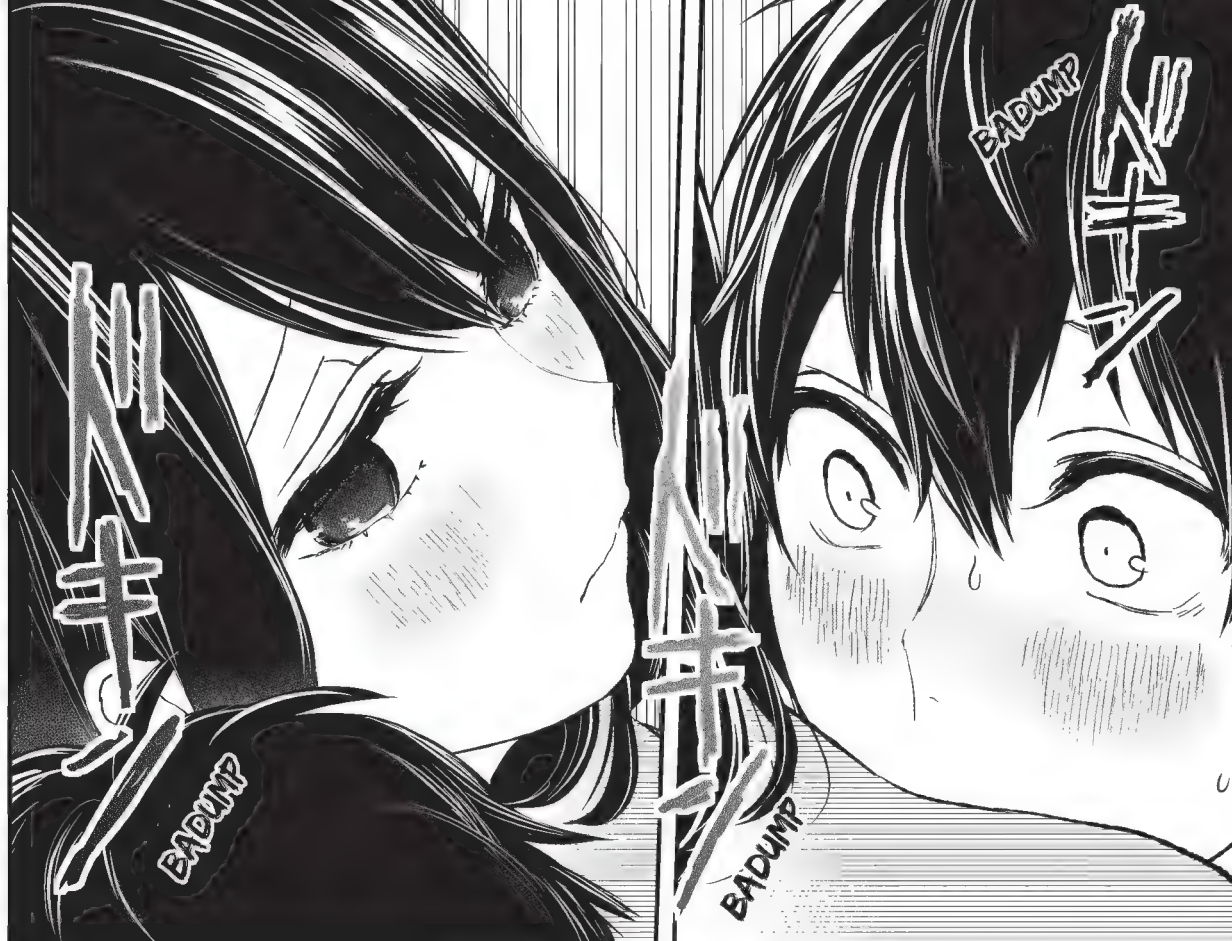


I
THOUGHT
I WAS
GOING
TO DIE.



HHH...?





CAN
WE
STAY
LIKE
THIS...

JUST
FOR A
LITTLE
BIT?



IF YOU
ACTUALLY
MANAGE TO
GET NEJI
AND TAKASAKI
TOGETHER
BY PLAYING
MATCH-
MAKER...



OH,
MY BAD.
LET ME
PUT THIS
ANOTHER
WAY...

IT'S
NOT
LIKE I'M
DOING
ANYTHING
ILLEGAL!

WHAT
THE
HECK
DO YOU
MEAN?



WELL
...

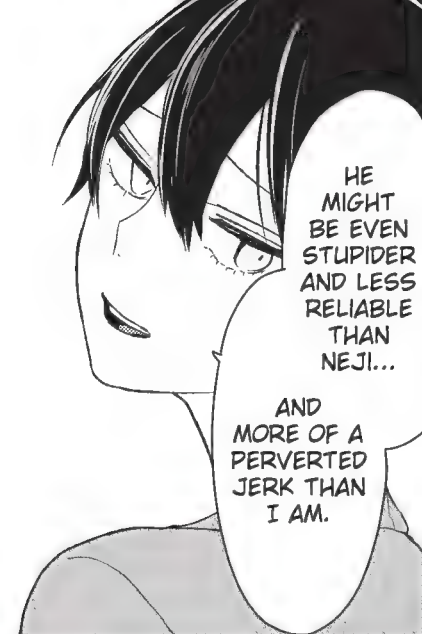
I'LL
BE
WITH...

YOU'LL
BE
WITH
THEM?



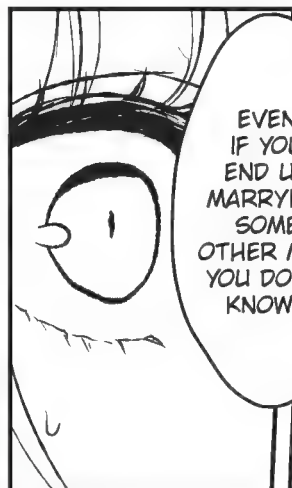
...WHERE
WILL
YOU BE
THEN?





HE
MIGHT
BE EVEN
STUPIDER
AND LESS
RELIABLE
THAN
NEJI...

AND
MORE OF A
PERVERTE
JERK THAN
I AM.



EVEN
IF YOU
END UP
MARRYING
SOME
OTHER MAN
YOU DON'T
KNOW?



Y-
YES, I
COULD!



BUT IF
YOU STILL
WANNA TRY
TO GET THEM
TOGETHER
KNOWING
THAT, THEN
GO AHEAD.

I CAN'T
SAY I
APPROVE,
THOUGH.



THERE'S
NO
PUNISHMENT
FOR GOING
AGAINST
IT!

THE
NOTICE
IS JUST A
MATCH-
MAKING
SERVICE!

NOT
OFFICIALLY.

...?!



YOU'LL
BE FINE,
BUT
THERE'LL
BE A
PENALTY
FOR HIM.

IF
THINGS
GO AS YOU
WANT, AND
NEJI
REFUSES
THE
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE...

AND
BY
THE
WAY...



IN NEJI'S
CASE, THE
"DREAM"
HE SPOKE
OF THIS
AFTERNOON
...

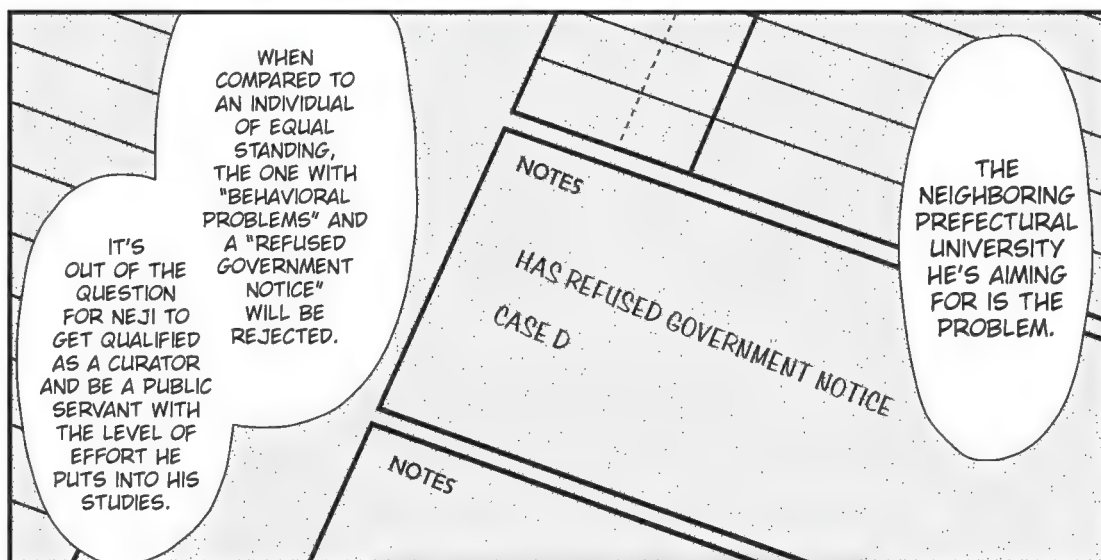
...WILL
NEVER
COME
TRUE.

IT
REALLY
DEPENDS
ON THE
SITUATION,
CIRCUM-
STANCES
AND
RATIONALE,
BUT...



IT'S NO
BIG DEAL IF
THINGS DON'T
GO WELL NO
MATTER HOW
HARD YOU
TRY, AND THE
MATCH IS
DISMISSED
AND
RECALCULATED
...

BUT
THINGS
ARE
DIFFERENT
IF YOU
REJECT
IT
OUTRIGHT.



WHEN
COMPARED TO
AN INDIVIDUAL
OF EQUAL
STANDING,
THE ONE WITH
"BEHAVIORAL
PROBLEMS" AND
A "REFUSED
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE" WILL
BE REJECTED.

IT'S
OUT OF THE
QUESTION
FOR NEJI TO
GET QUALIFIED
AS A CURATOR
AND BE A PUBLIC
SERVANT WITH
THE LEVEL OF
EFFORT HE
PUTS INTO HIS
STUDIES.

THE
NEIGHBORING
PREFECTURAL
UNIVERSITY
HE'S AIMING
FOR IS THE
PROBLEM.



DECENT
COMPANIES
WILL
NEVER HIRE
SOMEONE
WHO HAS
REFUSED
THEIR
NOTICE.

THESE
DAYS, WHEN
PEOPLE
THINK OF
THE TROUBLE
THAT WILL
COME
DOWN THE
ROAD...

GETTING
INTO THE
PRIVATE
SECTOR
IS EVEN
MORE
DIFFICULT.

SO THE
MINORITY
OF PEOPLE
WHO GET
DIVORCED
AFTER
MARRYING
NORMALLY
STAND OUT
IN A BAD
WAY.

DIVORCE
RATES
HAVE
GONE
DOWN
WITH THIS
LEGISLATION...



IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

...WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO DO...

MAYBE
YOU WERE
JUST
TRYING
TO BE A
FRIEND
AND CHEER
ON THEIR
RELATION-
SHIP,
BUT...

...WILL
ONLY MAKE
NEJI
UNHAPPY.

...YOU'RE
A PRETTY
CRAPPY
MATCH-
MAKER.





...



I LIKE MISAKI...
AND YUKARI...

I JUST WANTED THEM
TO BE HAPPY,
SO...

...



I-I...



NISAKA!



THAT
STUFF
ONLY
WORKS
OUT IN
FAIRY
TALES.

「フ」
〜
MUMBLE

...

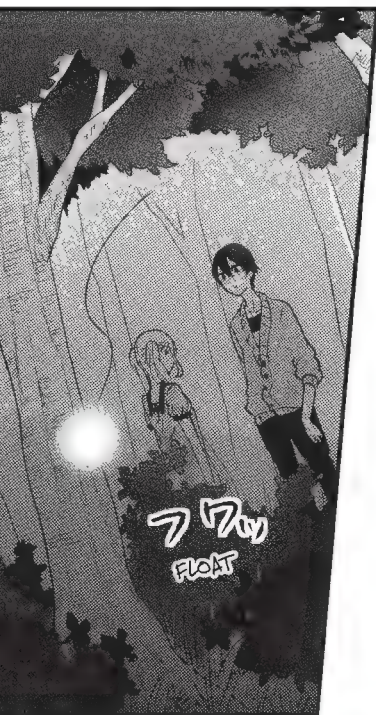


I LIKE BOTH
NEJIMA-KUN...

AND
LILI-CHAN...

WHEN I SAID
I WAS GOING
LILI-CHAN WAS
SO HAPPY!

...THAT'S
WHY



IT'S
NOT
OFTEN
YOU SEE
A GIRL
WHOSE
FIRST
THOUGHT
IS A
"WILL-O'-
WISP."

...MAYBE
IT'S A
WILL-O'-
WISP.

SHIVER



...?

...DID
SOME-
THING
JUST
PASS
BY
US?

SOME-
THING
SHIN-
ING...

HUH?



I
WON-
DER...

HM?



OH!
YOU'RE
RIGHT!
IT'S
FLYING
ALONG!









THEY'RE
SO PRETTY...
IF THEY'RE
LEAVING
TRAILS OF
LIGHT IN
THE AIR.

I
THINK
IT'S
GENJI
FIREFLIES
THAT
COME OUT
AROUND
THIS
TIME?

OH YEAH.
IT'S JUNE,
SO THEY'RE
OUT NOW,
AREN'T
THEY?

ARE
THEY...
FIREFLIES?



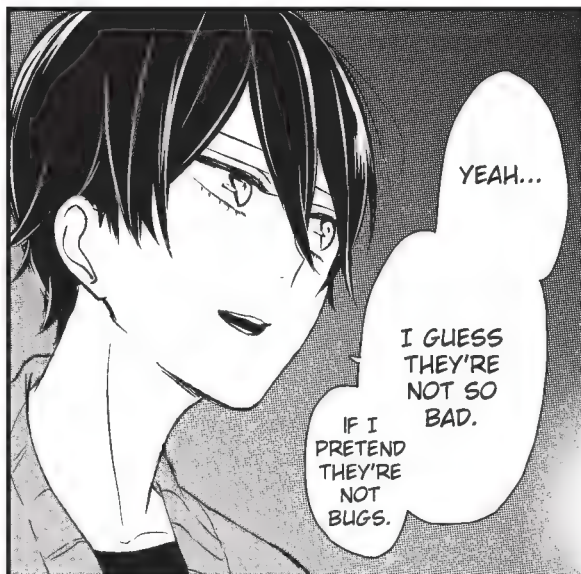
SO ALL THESE LIGHTS ...





THEN
THIS
LIGHT...

...IS THEM
PUTTING
THEIR
LIVES ON
THE LINE
FOR LOVE,
HUH?



YEAH...

I GUESS
THEY'RE
NOT SO
BAD.

IF I
PRETEND
THEY'RE
NOT
BUGS.



SAME
HERE.

THIS
IS THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER
SEEN
FIREFLIES.



FIREFLIES
ONLY DRINK
WATER AND
THEN DIE ONCE
THEY'VE LAID
THEIR EGGS, IF
I REMEMBER
THAT RIGHT.

REALLY
...?

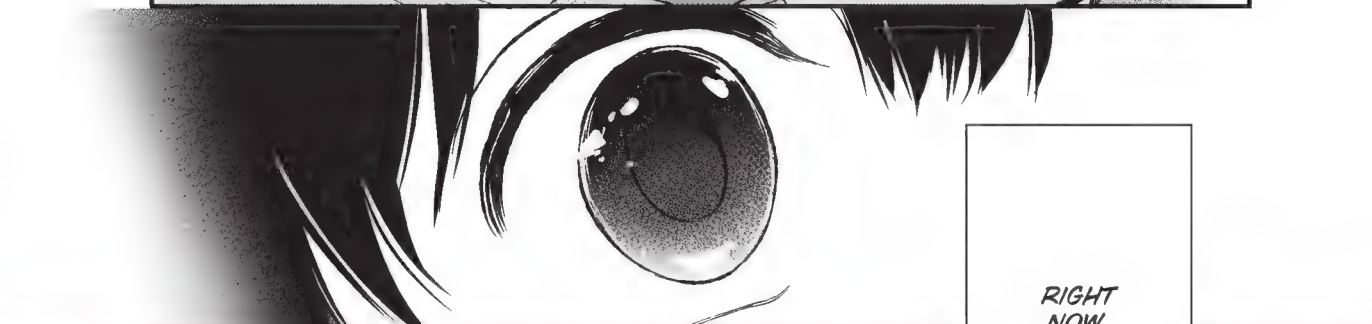






...LEAVING
NOTHING
BEHIND...

THOUGH
THEY'LL
DISAP-
PEAR
...



RIGHT
NOW,
THESE
LIGHTS...

...ARE SO
DESPERATELY
...

...FALLING
IN
LOVE.



FRIENDS...

CRUSHES...

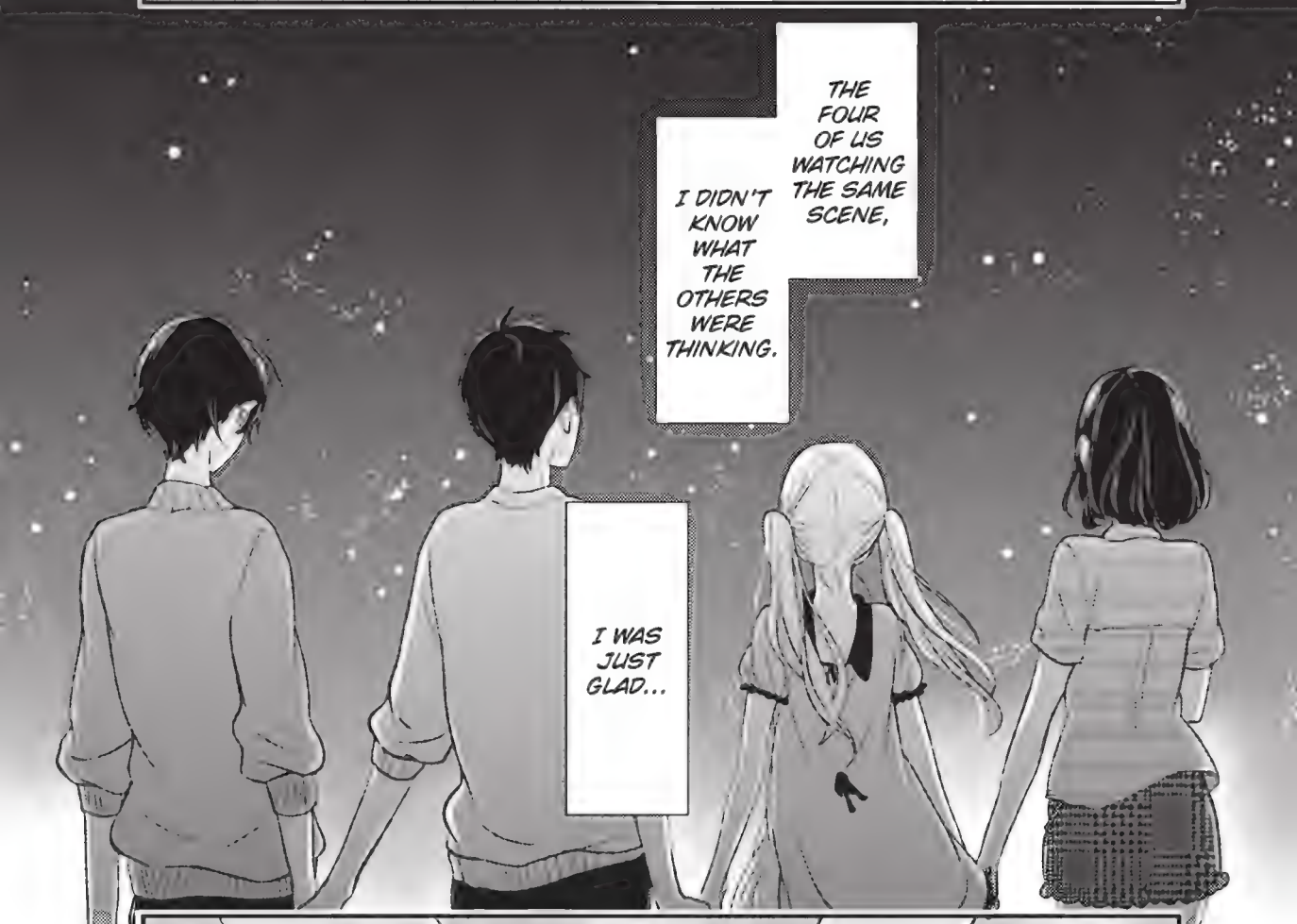
FIANCEES

...

NONE
OF THAT
MATTERS.



IN THAT
MOMENT...



I DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT
THE
OTHERS
WERE
THINKING.

THE
FOUR
OF US
WATCHING
THE SAME
SCENE,

I WAS
JUST
GLAD...



...THAT
WE ALL
GOT TO
SEE IT
TOGETHER.

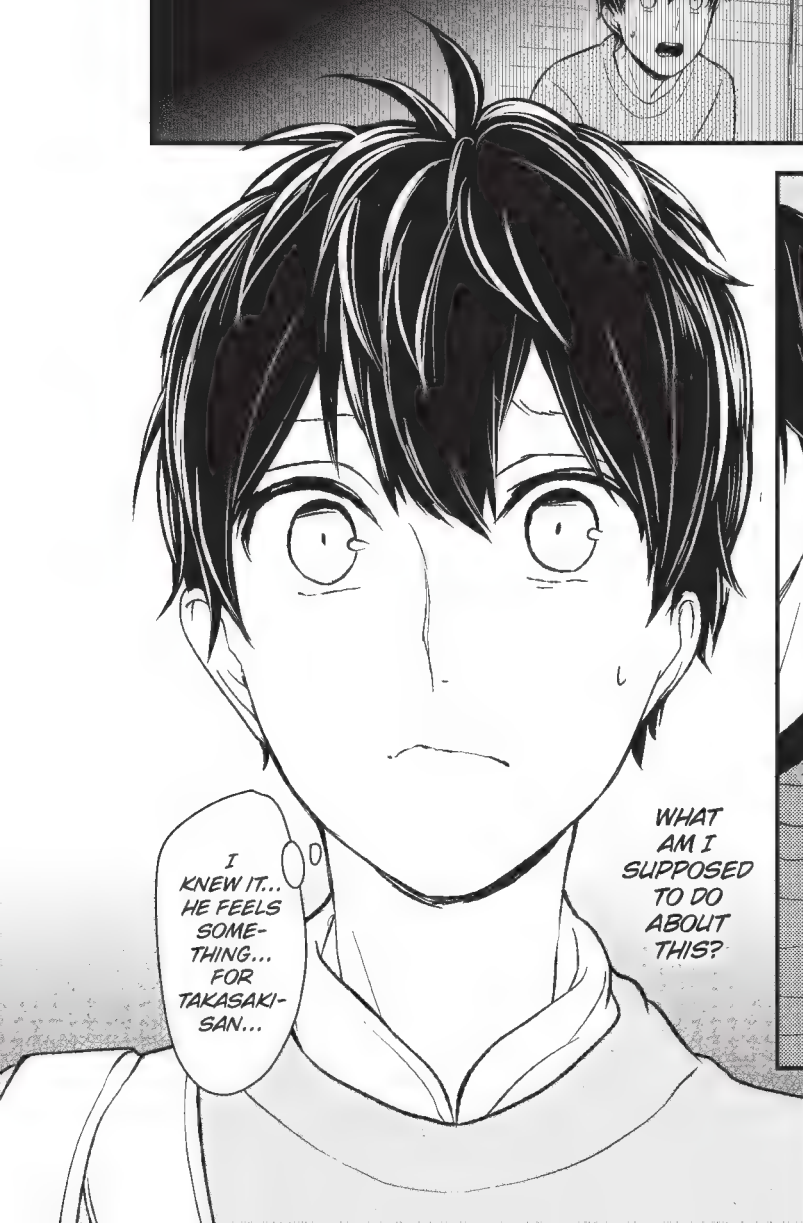
Love & Lies



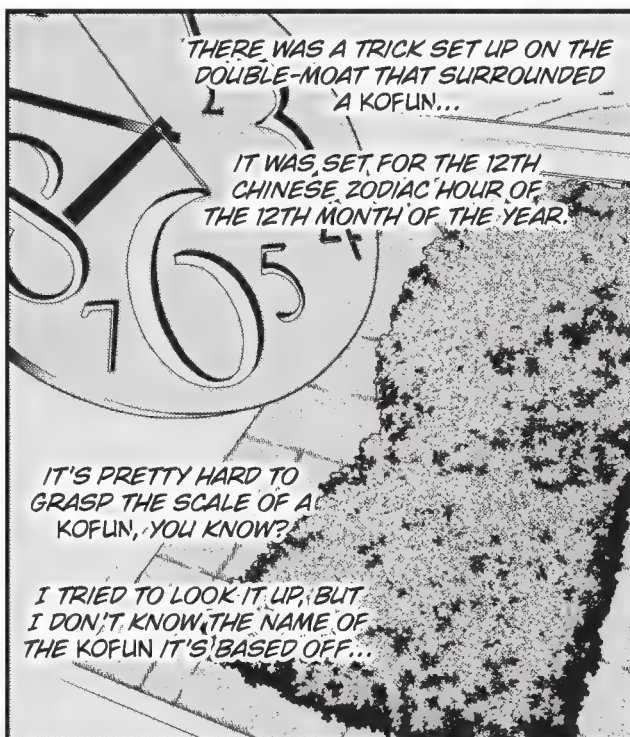




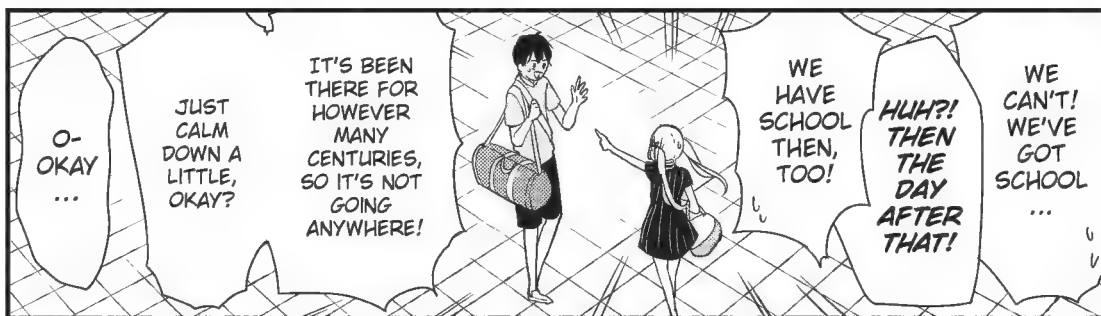












...SINCE
I MET
YUKARI.



SOON IT'LL
BE TWO
MONTHS...



I WAS
JUST
GOING TO
STUDY ON
MY OWN
THEN,
SO THAT
SHOULD BE
FINE.

WHEN
HE'S
LIKE
THIS...

...I
DON'T
MIND IT
AT ALL.



SO WHEN
SHALL
WE GO?
ARE YOU
FREE NEXT
WEEKEND?



AND...

SO DO I
THINK I
CAN KEEP
CHEERING
THEM ON
FOREVER?

I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
MYSELF.



I'VE
NEVER
FALLEN
IN LOVE
BEFORE.

BUT
IF YOU
ASKED
ME IF
THAT
MEANS
I LIKE
HIM...

...I
DON'T
KNOW.





AND HER
REACTION'S
SO PURE!

WHATTA
CUTIE!

か
あ
あ
あ

BLUUUSH



UM...
YES.

SHE'S HOT AS
HELL, DUDE.
SHE YOUR
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE
PARTNER?

I'M
SCARED...

WHY IS HE
SAYING THOSE
THINGS?



...

...WISH I
COULDA
DONE A
LITTLE
BETTER!

SHE'S MY
ASSIGNED
MATCH,
SO
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO
ABOUT IT,
BUT...

THAT'S
COLD!



EASIER,
YEAH, BUT
I CAN'T
STAND
HER FACE
WHEN SHE
COMES.

LUCKY YOU!
I'M NOT
SAYING SHE
HAD TO BE
THIS FINE,
BUT I WISH
I COULD'VE
GOTTEN
SOMEONE
CUTER.

YOU WERE
JUST
SAYING
HOW LIFE
WAS EASIER
WITH HER
AROUND!

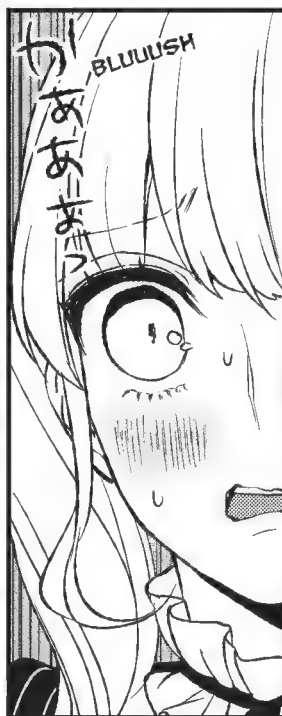
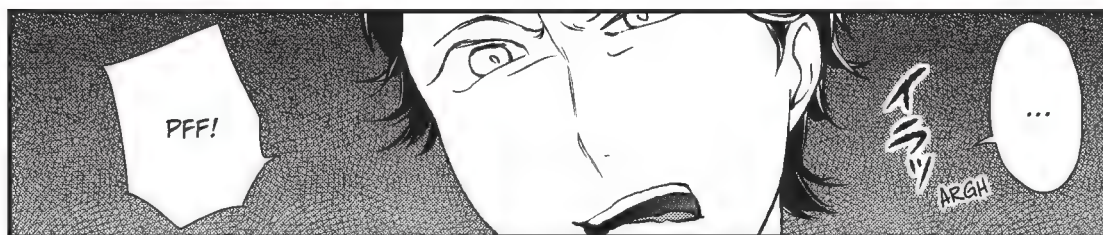


YOU
DOG!

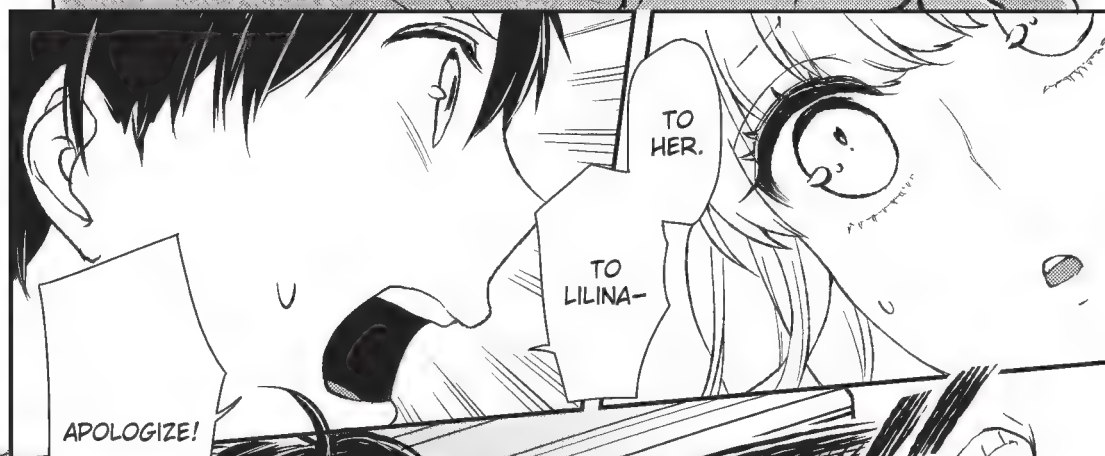
Ha ha.

HUH?!

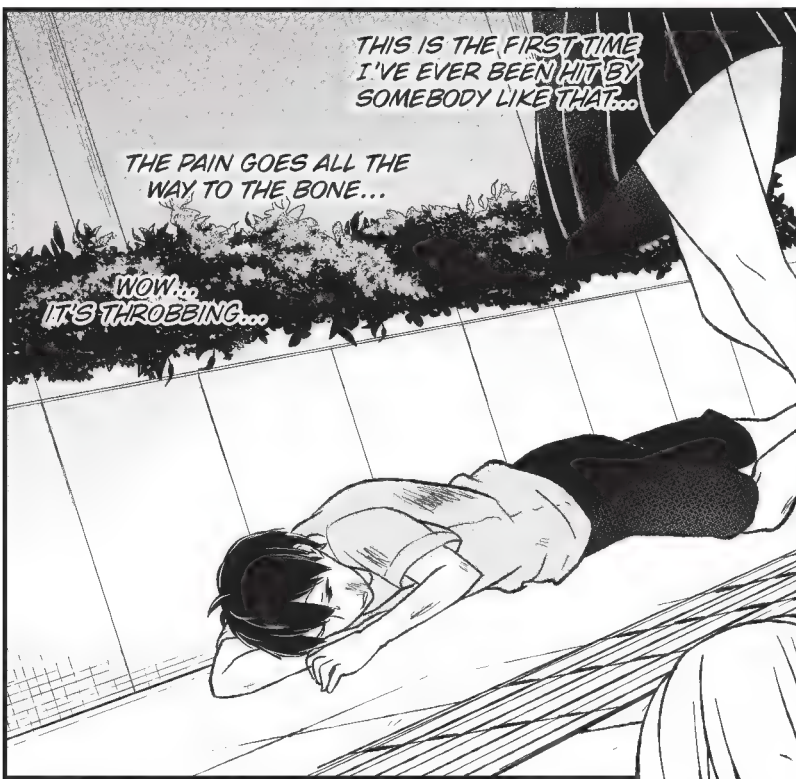
HEY,
HAVE
YOU
DONE
IT WITH
HER
YET?
WAS
SHE
GOOD?

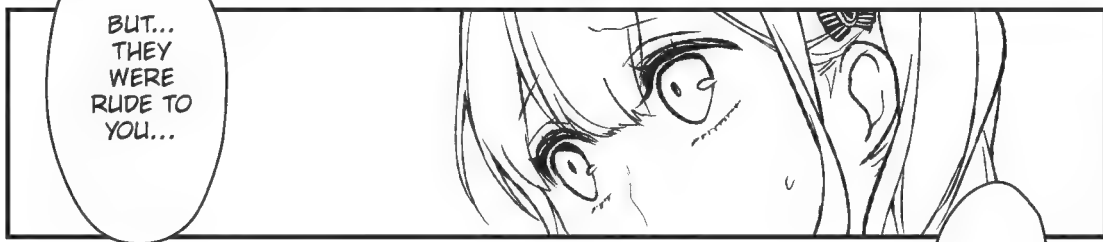
















BUT IT
WAS
ALSO...

...THE
MOST
ORDINARY
THING
IN THE
WORLD.

OUR
RELATION-
SHIP WAS
DISTORTED
AND
AWKWARD.



BUT AT
THE TIME,
WE DIDN'T
KNOW...

...
LILINA...
SMELLS
NICE...



...WAS FAST
APPROACHING.

...THAT SOMETHING THAT WOULD
TURN IT UPSIDE-DOWN...

Love & Lies

To be continued...

NEXT VOLUME...

L O V E a n d L I E S



What will
Neji and
Lilina face
in the
mysterious
class they
have to take
together?!

And
what will
happen
with
Takasaki
and
Nisaka at
the school
festival?!



SHIFTING FORCES AND BIG DEVELOPMENTS AWAIT!

THE FEELINGS OF FOUR PEOPLE,

ENTANGLING AND DEEPENING!



AND A NEW
CHARACTER
APPEARS!



Love & Lies

Volume 3
coming soon!

SEE YOU IN VOLUME 3, MASTER...!

ARGH, I CAN'T
DO THIS! IT'S
HUMILIATING TO
SERVE TABLES
IN A SKIRT LIKE
THIS.

THIS KIND OF UNIFORM
MAKES ME NOT WANT TO
WORK AT ALL!

SO I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE
IT ENOUGH TO BUY THE
THIRD VOLUME!

★ SPECIAL THANKS ★

SUDOU JUU-SAMA
NONOMURA-SAMA
HANAWA-SAMA

EVERYONE IN
MY FAMILY

☆ AND ☆

ALL OF YOU
WHO'VE SO
KINDLY READ
MY WORK



Love and Lies 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682339404

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator: Jennifer Ward

Lettering: Daniel CY

Editing: Paul Starr

Kodansha Comics edition cover design by Phil Balsman

